FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Assails Shah, Praises Khomeyni [VOP] A 1
Praises Iraqi-Syrian Unity A 1
Discusses Palestinian-Lebanese Relations A 1
Arab Organization To Produce Antitank Missile A 2
PLO Reportedly To Discuss Dialog With Jordan A 3
Arab News Agencies Federation Elects New Officials A 3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Paper Says Egypt Might Announce Camp David Failure C 1

OMAN

Voice of Oman: U.S. Ambassador Controls Omani Affairs C 1

QATAR

U.S. Reportedly Submits New Middle East Settlement Plan C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Explains Stand on Iran to Kuwaiti Paper C 3

YEMEN--YAR

President Salih Rejects Camp David Agreements C 4
San'a' Reports PDRY Military Violation of YAR Airspace C 4

EGYPT

As-Sadat: Israel To Buy Sinai Oil at World Market Prices D 1
AL-AHRAM Reports Important Cairo-Washington Contacts D 1
AS-SIYASI Says Peace Talks To Resume in February D 2
Ghali Discusses Egyptian Position, Mideast Developments D 2
Interview With AKHBAR AL-YAWM D 2
Interview With Cairo Radio D 3
As-Sadat Meets With NDP Leaders 4 February D 4
Cairo Commentator Speaks of New Israeli 'Tactic' D 5
Security Services Uncover Subversion Attempts D 6
Khalil Asks Ministers To Prepare Development Plan D 6

IRAQ

President Tito Arrives in Baghdad on Official Visit E 1
Talks Begin E 1
Banquet Honors Tito E 1
Tito Awards Metal E 1
Tito Meets Defense Minister E 2
Iraq, Soviet Union Sign Trade Exchange Minutes E 2
Sudanese Military Delegation Arrives in Baghdad E 2

JORDAN

Media Comment on Events, Church's Statements F 1
Amman Radio Commentary F 1
AR-RA'Y Attacks Church's Statements F 2
AD-DUSTUR Assails Church F 3

LEBANON

Israeli Shelling of South Prelude to Wider Operations G 1
Beirut Radio Quotes UN Spokesman on Deaths of UNIFIL Troops G 1
VOL Reports Palestinians Fire on Israeli Gunboats G 1
VOL: Syrian Forces Open Fire in Beirut G 2
Further VOL Report G 2
VOL: Iranian Students Occupy Beirut Embassy G 2
VOL: Palestinians Detain Egyptians in Beirut G 2
U.S. Ambassador Makes Statement After Meeting With Sarkis G 2
Al-Huss Makes Statement After Meeting 'Arafat G 3
Al-Huss Meets With Iraqi Ambassador 4 Feb G 3
VOL: American, French Suspects Released G 3
INA: Rightists Hiring Mercenaries, Receiving CIA Funds G 4
MENA: Israel Links Haddad's Wages With UN Resolution G 4

SYRIA

PDRY Leader Arrives on Official Visit 3 February H 1
Official Talks Begin H 2
Al-Asad Meets Separately With Isma'il H 2
'Arafat Meets With PDRY President H 2
PDRY Information Minister Interviewed H 3
Archibishop Capucci Hails Syrian-Iraqi Accord H 3

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

EL MOUDJAHID Assails Moroccan 'Provocations' I 1

MOROCCO

Rabat Reports Letter From Boucetta To Algeria's Bouteflika I 2
Madrid Paper Carries Boucetta Statement on Algerian Dialog I 4
212 Enemy Said Killed in Action Following Tan-Tan Attack I 4
Commission Established To Investigate Attack on Tan-Tan I 5

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers: SDAR Reports Further on Tan-Tan Attack I 5
Saharans Launch New Attack in Southern Morocco I 6
Algiers: POLISARIO Capable of Imposing Military Solution I 6

ISRAEL

Dayan Reports to Cabinet on Trip to France N 1
Begin Rejects Establishment of Palestinian State N 1
Rabin on Differences in Translations of Camp David Accords [HATZOFE 5 Feb] N 1
Rabin Raps Autonomy Paln, Urges Step-by Step Approach [DAVAR 2 Feb] N 2
Alinement Will Support Autonomy If Tied to Peace Plan N 2
Cabinet Creates Committee To Deal With Sinai Settlements N 3
MA'ARIV Comments on U.S.-Israeli Information Exchange [2 Feb] N 3
DAVAR Comments on Prospects, Implications of Tripartite Summit [2 Feb] N 7
Sharon Warns Against Internal Disputes Within Likud [DAVAR 2 Feb] N 9
MA'ARIV Discusses Ehrlich Maneuvers in Likud [2 Feb] N 11
Moda'i Interviewed on Liberal Party Situation, Oil Issue [MA'ARIV 2 Feb] N 12
Military To Check W. Bank Mayors' Attempted Gathering N 14
West Bank Students Stage Riots; Curfew Imposed N 14
Arab Manifestos Attack 'Zionist Incitement' ['AL HAMISMAR 4 Feb] N 15
Disturbances in Ramallah Continue 3 February N 15
High Court Bars Demolition of Arab House N 16
One Killed, Two Hurt in E. Jerusalem Explosion N 16
Terrorists Sever S. Lebanon Roads; UNIFIL Casualties Listed N 16
Security Forces Note Deterioration in Terrorist Capability N 16

IRAN

Weekly Journal Comments on Benefits of Recent Unrest R 1
Two Reported Dead After Clashes in Semnan R 2
'Political Figures' Visit Khomeyni in Tehran R 2
Tehran Radio Resumes Normal Programs R 2
Educational Supervision Posts in Gulf Region Abolished R 2
Former Regional Supervisors To Be Recalled R 2
Ministerial, Other Security Organs Abolished R 2
Khomeyni Holds Press Conference on Government, Foreigners R 3
INA Report R 4
AFP Report R 4
Military Governorate Permits More Assemblages R 5
Bakhtiar Speaks on Cooperating With Khomeyni R 5
Supplies of Gasoline Reported Increasing in Tehran R 6
Press Comments on Khomayni, Bakhtiar Positions, Disturbances R 6
Tehran Reports on Arrest of Former Ministers R 7
Tehran Mayor To Be Prosecuted for Corruption R 7
Former Minister of Justice Arrested R 7

Bakhtiar Interviewed on Current Iranian Events R 8
Contacts Between Bakhtiar, Khomeyni Opened R 13
Banks To Be Open 3 Days Per Week R 13
Shops Reopen in Yadz; Kermanshah Bus Strike Ends R 13
Author of Anti-Army Article Arrested R 14
UPI Office in Tehran Bombed by Islamic Group R 14
NVOI Comments on Khomeyni's Return, Appeals to Soldiers R 14
Bakhtiar Interview With French Socialist Daily [AFP] R 15
Sanjabi Interviewed on Khomeyni Attitude, Plans [Paris] R 16
Air Force Cadets Demonstrate, One Cadet Killed [AFP] R 16
Yazdi Interviewed on Khomeyni Plans for Government [AFP] R 17
Khomeyni Aids Cites Possible Cuts in Oil Production [Paris] R 17
Brezhnev, Khomeyni Envoy Reportedly Meet in Bulgaria [AFP] R 17

'ARAFAT ASSAILS SHAH, PRAISES KHOMEYNI

JN021803 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab world 1745 GMT 2 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has asserted that the shah of Iran and his agent imperialist regime were a basic pillar of the Zionist entity which is usurping our Palestinian homeland.

In a statement to the magazine FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, brother Abu 'Ammar added that the downfall of the shah means the downfall of all the regimes which are agents of U.S. imperialism and work for concluding a capitulationist settlement at the expense of the Palestinian people and their armed revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar further added that the results of the Iranian people's victory will not be confined to within the borders of Iran, but will extend far to strike at the imperialist-Zionist presence in Palestine. He greeted the heroic people of Iran and their brave leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. He also called on the Palestinian people and their militant revolutionaries to struggle and stand fast until the defeat of Zionism and those like the shah, who humiliated the nation and trampled its dignity in the interest of the United States and racist Zionism. He affirmed that the hour of freedom and liberation has approached.

Praises Iraqi-Syrian Unity

JN031326 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement has given the Arab position a new dimension. In a statement to the Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian revolution is a natural extension of this historic rapprochement which is the only way to restore the strategic balance on the military, human and economic levels after the temporary collapse of the Egyptian front.

Discusses Palestinian-Lebanese Relations

NC030946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Beirut, 3 February--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that relations between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian resistance are good. He expressed the resistance's readiness to implement all the agreements signed between the two sides.

In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR published today, 'Arafat emphasized that the basic dialog in Lebanon is on a Lebanese to Lebanese basis. He warned against the intensive Israeli military concentrations in south Lebanon.

'Arafat said that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office is responsible for assassinating Abu Hasan Salamah in Beirut.

Meanwhile, AN-NAHAR quotes Palestinian sources as saying that Yugoslav President Josep Broz Tito will meet with 'Arafat in Damascus during the official visit to Syria which he will be making in the course of his current tour of the Middle East.

ARAB ORGANIZATION TO PRODUCE ANTITANK MISSILE

NC041556 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 February--Shayky Faysal ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Organization for Industrialization [AIO], has stated that the organization will produce the first Arab antitank missile in September. He added that Arab experts in the organization's factories have developed, improved and modified the antitank Swingfire missiles.

In a statement he made to MENA's military editor, Shaykh al-Qasimi added that the AIO's Higher Committee, which includes the defense ministers of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Egypt, will meet in Qatar late in March to adopt the necessary decisions regarding the strategic plans and the organization's planning budget, which the Board of Directors discussed at its recent meeting in Cairo. He added that the AIO's Board of Directors will hold a meeting in early March to prepare for the meeting of the Higher Committee.

Referring to the electronics factory which the AIO is setting up in Saudi Arabia, Shaykh al-Qasimi said: The study of the establishment of this factory is proceeding according to the plan which the organization is implementing together with the French Thomson Company. He added that the AIO's plan for the next phase provides for the establishment of other war factories in the UAE and Qatar to expand the base of the sophisticated Arab military industries.

Concerning the organization's production of Lynx helicopters, Shaykh al-Qasimi said the AIO is proceeding with the contracts on the production of this aircraft. He added: There are certain specifications which the Arab area requires because of the different natural, air and environmental conditions. The Board of Directors has formed special committees to study these specifications. These committees have made good progress along the road of production.

Referring to the role of the organization in the production of the Alpha jet training aircraft, Shaykh al-Qasimi said: The negotiations are continuing between the AIO and the foreign companies with which contracts have been concluded to produce this aircraft. The results of the negotiations will be submitted to the AIO's Higher Committee at its next meeting.

Shaykh al-Qasimi further said that a study is now being conducted on a high level regarding the organization's creation of a large base for maintaining the aircraft of the member states and for providing full maintenance for aircraft in the Arab world. He added: This will enable us to overcome the problems of maintenance and spare parts and to keep the planes working at a high degree of efficiency.

The chairman of the AIO Board of Directors has called on the Arab states to join the organization in order to attain a war industrialization which would meet the weapon needs of the Arab armies. He said: The door is open for the Arab brothers to join the Arab organization provided that they adhere to the bases related to the organization's capital investments bylaw and submit the applications related to the armies of the Arab member states.

PLO REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS RESUMING DIALOG WITH JORDAN

JN021954 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Feb 79 JN

[Text] A responsive Palestinian source in Amman said today that the PLO Executive Committee will soon meet and discuss the sending of a Palestinian delegation to Amman to resume the dialog with Jordan.

Reports say that the meeting will also review the recommendations and decision of the 14th session of the Palestine National Council held recently in Damascus, particularly pertaining to the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog.

ARAB NEWS AGENCIES FEDERATION ELECTS NEW OFFICIALS

JN021313 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1236 GMT 2 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 2 February--Muhammad al-Mashnuq, director general of the Lebanese National News Agency, has become chairman of the Federation of Arab News Agencies, replacing Ziyad 'Abd al-Fattah, director general of the Palestine News Agency. Al-Mashnuq has become the federation's new chairman in accordance with paragraph five of the federation's bylaws, which states that the director general of the news agency of the country that acts as host to the federation's meeting will become federation chairman.

Syria and Libya continued to occupy the posts of vice chairmen, while Tunisia, Palestine and the UAE have become members of the General Secretariat Presidium of the next session of the Federation of Arab News Agencies General Assembly.

The conference adjourned its fourth session for 15 minutes this morning to give the three state Arbitration Committee, composed of Lebanon, Mauritania and Tunisia, the chance to nominate the vice chairmen and the General Secretariat Presidium members. Following this nomination it was decided to convene a special session this evening to conclude and approve the conference recommendations.

KUWAIT

PAPER SAYS EGYPT MIGHT ANNOUNCE CAMP DAVID FAILURE

LD021136 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A local paper says today that Egypt may shortly announce the failure of the Camp David agreements in reaching a peace settlement with Israel.

AL-WATAN says that Egypt will start mending its relations with the Arab states in preparation for returning to the Arab ranks. Moreover, it will undertake not to take a unilateral decision connected with portentous pan-Arab issues.

The paper says that Egyptian Ambassador in Kuwait Mamduh 'Abd ar-Razzaq will leave for Cairo today on a mission which it described as being connected with Egypt's Arab move following the failure of the Camp David agreements.

The Egyptian ambassador has conferred during the past week with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

It is being reported that the conference of Egypt's ambassadors in the Arab states, which was recently held in Cairo, had recommended to the Egyptian Government that it amend its relations with the Arab states.

OMAN

VOICE OF OMAN: U.S. AMBASSADOR CONTROLS OMANI AFFAIRS

LD021916 Aden Voice of Oman in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Feb 79 LD/EA

[Text] Isn't it ironical that U.S. Ambassador Wiley should have taken over the premises previously occupied by the British commissioner--a residence used in the years when full control over the fate of Oman lay in the hands of the British authorities--because changes in the world have led the United States to occupy the number one position in the capitalist camp?

Omani citizens have recently noted the U.S. ambassador's ceaseless activity: Hardly a day passes without his meeting a minister of the Qabus regime to discuss one or the other of the fundamental issues connected with the Sultanate's development, and he expresses his opinion on this or that project.

All of this, of course, is merely a coverup by the ambassador and the Qabus authorities of the real issues that the ambassador discusses with the Sultanate's officials.

It is common knowledge among citizens in all parts of the Sultanate that the ambassador is a prominent member of the CIA. He was appointed U.S. ambassador to the Sultanate because of his strong links with the CIA, and he therefore plays the role of directing the regime's officials--most of whom belong to Ambassador Wiley's organization. The real rulers of the Sultanate these days are the U.S. ambassador and his staff, because their directives are the ones which are implemented.

The U.S. Embassy in Muscat has become a den of intrigue against our Omani masses. Interference by the U.S. ambassador in Muscat has now reached such a critical stage that several ministers have been forced to dismiss ministry staff. This was the case with Salim ibn Sa'if al-Hawtami, an employee in the Ministry of Electricity and Water. The ambassador ordered his dismissal because the ambassador was doubtful as to his loyalty to the authorities. He has also been interfering in the selection of young people sent to the United States for further study and training.

These days, the Sultanate is teaming with U.S. advisers and experts working in various sectors. The Sultanate'sintelligence service is being set up on the U.S. model, with Americans playing a key role.

The U.S. ambassador's activities and his interference in the Sultanate's affairs are broadly condemned by the masses of our people, who are well aware of the ambassador's aims. The foremost aim is to link Oman with the imperialist circles.

Oman, under the treacherous regime of Qabus has become the playground of liars, spies and thieves. The same imperialist methods evident in most Third World countries are being used. Such methods have been condemned by the people over the decades and in some countries have led to revolution, mass uprising, and consequently to the expulsion of the Americans and the destruction of their interests in those countries.

The current situation best represents this. The masses of our Omani people will resist all that the Americans are doing in our country.

QATAR

U.S. REPORTEDLY SUBMITS NEW MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT PLAN

NC031108 Doha QNA Arabic 0940 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 3 February--The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB reports today that it has learned from well-informed Arab sources that in the past few days the United States has submitted a new plan for a settlement of the Arab-Zionist conflict which it called "the moderate plan.

The paper says that Washington has informed a number of Arab capitals of the broad lines of this plan. The sources affirmed that the influence of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is clear in the plan's articles. The plan is considered the essence of all the settlement efforts which have taken place since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and until now, and contains some new ideas as well.

The sources affirmed that the U.S. administration wants Arab participation in the settlement efforts after having realized that it is difficult to break the deadlock in the Egyptian-Israel negotiations.

The sources pointed out to AL-'ARAB that former U.S. President Gerald Ford, who was on a visit to the Middle East a few days ago, tried to explain some of the articles in the plan. But some main points in the plan were rejected by most Arab capitals.

ISRAELI SHELLING OF SOUTH PRELUDE TO WIDER OPERATIONS

NC021647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The situation in the south is disturbing. The intensive Israeli military movements continued today. The Israeli forces resumed their operations in the south and heavily shelled Arnun Fortress and the surrounding area. This may be, as some exclusive reports today indicate, a prelude to more extensive operations. All this is happening at a time when the UN forces and the Lebanese Government are militarily and administratively preparing to insure the imposition of the state's authority in the south and when all states are declaring their support for Lebanon and all steps which the legitimate authorities are taking.

BEIRUT RADIO QUOTES UN SPOKESMAN ON DEATHS OF UNIFIL TROOPS

NC040821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] At the United Nations, a UN spokesman has said that six members of the UN peace-keeping force in south Lebanon were killed yesterday and three others were wounded in a clash with armed elements in the district of Tyre.

The spokesman said that two members of the Fijian contingent in the UN peace-keeping force were killed and three others were wounded when their unit clashed with forces attempting to infiltrate across UN lines. The spokesman added that a Norwegian helicopter, called in to remove the casualties, crashed, and that its four crew members were killed.

In Oslo it was announced that a committee will go to Lebanon immediately to investigate the crash of the Norwegian helicopter.

VOL REPORTS PALESTINIANS FIRE ON ISRAELI GUNBOATS

NC022045 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports that Israeli gunboats have been spotted off the coast from Sidon to Ad-Damur and that a state of alert prevails in the area.

Israeli artillery today bombarded Arnun Fortress from behind the border while an Israeli fighter plane flew over the fortress dropping some bombs at noon today. It was reported that the artillery and air bombardment hit specific targets during the operation. [(Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon at 1515 GMT on 2 February says that although the shelling of Arnun Fortress was "brief, the situation in the area remains tense."]

When the Voice of Lebanon reported this at noon today, some non-Lebanese information media denied the report but later foreign news agencies, including the Soviet news agency, carried the report this evening.

The security situation has been gradually growing calmer since about 30 minutes ago.

It has just been reported that artillery of the Palestinian resistance has opened fire on the Israeli gunboats opposite the line from Tyre [as heard] to Ad-Damur and that a general state of alert has been declared among the armed elements of the Palestinian and the joint forces.

Regarding the main points of the plan, the sources said they are summed up in the following:

1. The circle of Arab-Israeli contacts should be expanded through the United States. The U.S. administration has no objection to Soviet participation in supporting the plan in its first stages and to less than major Soviet participation in the final stages and in implementation.

2. The Arab states would gradually withdraw their consensus and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people on the pretext that Israel refuses to discuss the future of the Middle East in the presence of PLO representatives.

3. The Arab states would nominate a number of Palestinians from both inside and outside the occupied homeland to participate in the settlement efforts. These Palestinians would be "very moderate." The plan emphasizes the phrase "very moderate."

4. Three European states would participate in the settlement efforts. France, Britain, and West Germany are nominated for this role. The efforts would be exerted collectively and would be directed by Washington.

5. The United States pledges to work within 6 months for disengagement on the Jordanian front if the Arab states, and particularly Jordan, approve the plan.

6. Regarding the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the U.S. administration thinks this should be discussed during the negotiations if agreement is reached on this matter. Washington also thinks that the moderate Palestinians, who would serve as the representatives of the Palestinian people, will participate in these negotiations but will not play any major role.

7. Regarding the Golan, the sources affirmed to AL-'ARAB that Washington wants Syria to reduce its support for the PLO, and then the issue of the Golan will be discussed.

The Arab sources said that the position of the Arab states to which this U.S. plan was submitted is summed up in rejection of negotiations with Israel before Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab territories; rejection of self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and assertion of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. It is also summed up in rejection of the creation of Palestinian representation to replace the PLO; affirmation that existence of the PLO and its participation in any efforts to settle the problem cannot be a subject of bargaining; refusal to renounce Arab support for the PLO; and affirmation of the role of the Western states, particularly France, in searching for a just solution.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS STAND ON IRAN TO KUWAITI PAPER

LD051004 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 5 February--Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has said, in a statement published here today, that as long as the current events in Iran remain of an internal nature, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will have no position, but that it opposes any changes that are likely to attract foreign interference.

In his statement, made to Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH, Prince Sa'ud said it is not the policy of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. He added that if the current developments in Iran are a reflection of the demands of the Iranians, then "they are very natural and we will have no position. But we object only when these changes cause foreign interference which might tilt the balance of power in the area."

Prince Sa'ud said that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has been unable yet to determine if the political crisis which led to the shah of Iran's departure was a reflection of an Iranian wish or was the result of foreign interference.

"The picture is not clear to us except for what is apparent. We hear from Iran that they are warning against any foreign interference. The picture is still incomplete and all the information we have is what is available for all," he said.

The Saudi foreign minister denied that the present visit of 'Izzat Ibrahim, Iraqi minister of the interior, to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom had anything to do with the events in Iran. But he said that their talks had touched on these events.

"The timing of the visit had nothing to do with these changes, but was merely an extension of a previous visit within the framework of coordination among the countries of the area," he asserted. However, he added, when officials meet they discuss all matters of concern to their posts or their causes and homelands.

Prince Sa'ud said that the purpose of the brief visit which Qais az-Zawawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, paid to the kingdom yesterday was to deliver a message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He added that the talks he held with Az-Zawawi dealt with the changes in the gulf area and their effect on the gulf states.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH REJECTS CAMPS DAVID AGREEMENTS

JN021937 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1825 GMT 2 Feb 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 2 February--YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has affirmed that his country supports the unity action between Iraq and Syria and welcomes the Charter for Joint National Action between the two countries.

In a statement published here today, President Salih said that Yemen rejects all the decisions that resulted from the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel.

SAN'A' REPORTS PDRY MILITARY VIOLATION OF YAR AIRSPACE

JN042050 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Three military planes belonging to the hireling regime in Aden, two MIG's and a bomber, violated our airspace between 1400 and 1600 today. Their flight inside our airspace lasted 25 minutes. Nevertheless, our artillery did not intercept them in accordance with the directives of leader President Lt Col 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. The directives call for wisdom and self-restraint in facing the provocations of the hireling ruling clique in Aden and are based on the president's desire not to escalate the differences and to avoid turning our country into another area of serious conflict.

AS-SADAT: ISRAEL TO BUY SINAI OIL AT WORLD MARKET PRICES

NC021505 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Mit Abu al-Kawm, 2 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has said that there are no problems between Egypt and Israel regarding the Sinai oil. He said that the Israelis have asked to buy the oil at world market prices and we have agreed.

President as-Sadat was responding to a question from a foreign correspondent at the end of his tour today of the Mit Abu al-Kawm model village project. The correspondent had asked the president whether he believed that the question of the Sinai oil will take on considerable importance in light of the Iranian events.

President as-Sadat said: There are no difficulties or differences between us over this question. What I am talking about is the next step. Therefore I say let us wait until we hear from President Carter.

Asked whether it is necessary to convene a summit conference between him and President Carter, President as-Sadat said: I have no comment to make until I hear from President Carter.

Asked about the current status of the talks, President as-Sadat said: President Carter is occupied now with the visit of the Chinese vice premier. Let us hope that we will hear from President Carter soon.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS IMPORTANT CAIRO-WASHINGTON CONTACTS

NC032222 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 February--In its Sunday edition, AL-AHRAM says that important political and military contacts between Cairo and Washington have begun and will be completed within the next few days. The object of these contacts, the paper adds, is to agree on the next move toward peace, discuss the forthcoming steps to eliminate the current obstacles and bolster military cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

AL-AHRAM says further that these contacts confirm that U.S. President Jimmy Carter is now discussing the Middle East question in light of the report by Alfred Atherton, the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, on the results of his mission in Cairo and Tel Aviv. The paper also says that immediately after the end of the visit of the Chinese vice premier to Washington, President Carter will contact President Anwar as-Sadat to determine the next moves. Quoting a U.S. official source in Cairo, AL-AHRAM says that President Carter will contact President as-Sadat in the next few days.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. They discussed issues related to the World Health Organization in particular and Egyptian-U.S. relations in general.

Eilts said that U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown will arrive in Cairo on 16 February and will fly to Luxor and Aswan on the same day. He will then return to Cairo to begin his discussions with President as-Sadat on 17 February. He will also meet with Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali to discuss bilateral military cooperation and the F-5 transaction. Brown will fly to Saudi Arabia afterward.

The U.S. ambassador said that a delegation consisting of three experts from the Pentagon--the U.S. Defense Department--has arrived in Cairo for this purpose. The delegation will fly to Saudi Arabia tomorrow after concluding its discussions in Cairo.

AS-SIYASI SAYS PEACE TALKS TO RESUME IN FEBRUARY

NC040740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 February--AS-SIYASI says today that an important decision on the resumption of the peace negotiations is expected to be issued soon.

The paper adds that Foreign Ministry circles expect that the negotiations will be resumed during February at the foreign ministers' level, since the negotiations at the ambassadorial level have failed--a fact that compelled the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, to return to Washington.

AS-SIYASI points out that the U.S. inclination regarding the negotiations is that all the outstanding problems should be tackled at one time, not in phases, because they are linked.

The paper says that a senior diplomat has emphasized that Egypt will not agree to the ratification of a peace treaty with Israel as long as Israel does not change its position. He also said that if Egypt were given the choice between a bilateral treaty with Israel and continued adherence to its Arab commitments, it would choose the latter.

GHALI DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN POSITION, MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS

Interview With AKHBAR AL-YAWM

NC030826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 February--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egypt will continue its efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, using all the elements of strength it possesses in all spheres.

He said that Egypt clarified its position to the U.S. roving ambassador in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, during his recent tour. The Egyptian position is based on four principles: Egypt adheres to the need for the settlement to be comprehensive; Egypt in no way will accept infringement on its commitments and responsibilities toward its Arab homeland; Egypt will always be prepared to establish neighborly relations between it and all the Middle East states, but absolutely will not agree to establish special relations with Israel; Egypt is fully prepared to continue the current process of negotiations to eventually sign a peace treaty with Israel containing all the previous elements.

In an interview published by AKHBAR AL-YAWM today, Dr Butrus Ghali said that Egypt absolutely rejects Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's suggestion for a ministerial- or summit-level meeting between Egypt and Israel without U.S. participation. He said that such ideas contradict the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements and negate the specific role the United States played in these agreements and in the draft peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

He said that the fact that the Israeli side raises such ideas shows the success achieved by Egyptian diplomacy, which has been able to achieve a common Egyptian-U.S. position on the basic elements of the settlement. This has caused embarrassment to Israel, which is trying to overcome it by attempting to keep the United States out of the peace efforts.

Dr Butrus Ghali said it was unimagineable that U.S. interest in the efforts to achieve a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel could fade. On the contrary, the developments in Iran; the improvement in Chinese-U.S. relations; the possibility of a visit by Brezhnev to the United States; the imminent signing of a strategic arms limitation agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union--these are elements that strengthen the U.S. desire to achieve stability in the region.

Regarding Israel's claim that it has not been committed to stop establishing settlements in the occupied territories, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that this is a clear distortion that shows Israeli intransigence and its persistent attempt to avoid its Camp David commitments.

Referring to the current Arab conditions, Dr Butrus Ghali said: We admit that cracks exist in Arab solidarity and that it is passing through a difficult period. Nevertheless, we are fully convinced of the correctness of our position and that the other Arab brothers will soon realize their miscalculations and the need to change their position--especially that the Arab nation, including the forces called rejectionists, has chosen to see a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that Egypt will always be ready to assist each Arab side seeking to achieve peace and stability in the region for the benefit of the Arab peoples.

He said there has been no change in Arab aid to Egypt since President as-Sadat's peace initiative.

Dr Butrus Ghali said in his interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM that Egypt is holding various contacts with the Palestinians. He said: We are confident that there are patriotic Palestinian elements who are ready to discuss all possibilities for realizing the Palestinian people's hopes for self-determination. Egypt will always extend its support to these forces.

Interview with Cairo Radio

NC942925 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Interview in "A Dialog With An Official" program with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] The Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations top the list of international changes affecting not only the Middle East but also the entire world. What is the next step in the peace negotiations?

[Answer] The next step is further negotiations. No agreement has been reached yet on how the negotiations will be conducted and on whether they will be at the ministerial, summit or technical level. Contacts must be made between the parties to reach agreement on the method for the next negotiations. What is important is that there is a definite desire on the part of the Egyptian and U.S. sides, and to an extent on the part of the Israeli side, to see the negotiations continue to overcome the obstacles in the way of peace.

[Question] How long do you think it will take to conclude a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] Nobody can answer this question. The period of time depends on the contacts that will be initiated to choose a method of negotiations and on how long the next negotiations take.

[Question] In the beginning, optimism prevailed regarding the U.S. role in the negotiations. Hence, both sides moved quickly toward seeking a formula for peace. Now we wonder whether the U.S.' role has become lukewarm to the extent that the spirit of negotiations has also become lukewarm?

[Answer] The United States still plays a primary role, the role of a full partner, not only in the negotiations but also in the ratification and implementation phases of the agreement or agreements. Naturally, the implementation phase is always more difficult than the phase that precedes the ratification of international agreements. Consequently, the United States still has a positive and basic role to play in the peace process in the Middle East.

[Question] Have the events in Iran had any effect on the peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel--putting them in a lukewarm situation or a state of waiting until the general situation in Iran clears up?

[Answer] No. Events in Iran have established the need to expedite the ratification of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

[Question] The events in Iran have give rise to the question of oil. This question has been raised more than once by the Israeli officials, who say Sinai oil is now Israel's only source.

[Answer] This is not true. Sinai oil represents no more than 17 percent of Israeli consumption. We cannot say that Sinai oil is Israel's only source. As the Egyptian negotiator and President as-Sadat have said, Egypt is prepared to sell the oil to Israel at world prices but refuses to grant Israel any concessions as far as Sinai oil is concerned.

[Question] Could this be an obstacle to Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in the future?

[Answer] I do not think so. Egypt is prepared to sell the oil at world prices, which are based on supply and demand. Egypt refuses to freeze a part of Egyptian oil production for Israel. This contravenes Egypt's traditional oil policy.

[Question] Are you optimistic about the future Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in light of the several successive international changes?

[Answer] Peace will inevitably triumph in view of the dynamic desire for peace, which will prevail over all obstacles whether they are related to the negotiating process or to the changes in the area.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH NDP LEADERS 4 FEBRUARY

NC041545 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] At noon today, President Anwar as-Sadat met with the political and party leaders of the National Democratic Party. [NDP].

The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Deputy Prime Minister and NDP Secretary General Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, members of the Secretariat General and the liaison officers in upper and lower Egypt.

The NDP spokesman, Mansur Hasan, said that President as-Sadat decided to meet every 2 weeks with members of the Secretariat General in view of his interest in party activity and its success. President as-Sadat has been eager to appraise the experiment of democracy so far and has noted the need to deepen this practice and to work to stabilize the system of democratic action between the parties and the constitutional establishments in order to preserve the various views. The conferees also discussed the method of party action in the People's Assembly, the relations between the party, assembly and the government, and the role of legislative representatives.

It has been decided that Dr Sufi Abu Talib will be in charge of the party's legislative body. He will be assisted by Hilmi 'Abd al-Akhir, minister of state for People's Assembly affairs.

CAIRO COMMENTATOR SPEAKS OF NEW ISRAELI 'TACTIC'

NC021552 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Hasan al-'Ashmawi commentary: "Israel's Leaders New Tactic To Cover Up Their Evasive Stance"]

[Text] Egypt has emphasized and is still emphasizing that the achievement of a just and overall peace is considered as the most pressing objective at this juncture as far as the Arab peoples, and even the Israeli people, are concerned. Egypt is also emphasizing that whenever the devastating dangers threatening the Middle East area increase, the Israeli people are also affected. Meanwhile, the Israeli leaders' false advocacy of peace is being exposed, as are the maneuvers and evil methods by which they are hampering the peace process.

Israel's leaders are aware that the great majority of the Israelis and Americans, as well as the rest of the world, no longer doubt for a single moment that Egypt, under As-Sadat's leadership, is sincerely seeking peace. Therefore, these leaders are now trying to make broad sectors of the Israeli people and other peoples entertain the illusion that Egypt has caused the impasse in the peace talks, and that these leaders are in no way responsible for hindering the peace efforts. But they forget, or pretend to forget, the recent statements by their foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, in Paris.

It is obvious that Israel's leaders have now begun using a new tactic to cover up their evasive stance and to confront the pressure on them at home and abroad--pressure intended to bring about the achievement of peace. The Israeli leaders have begun using this method because they have felt the strength of the international and U.S. support for Egypt's position, which is based on righteousness and logic and has not changed since the beginning of the peace process.

The Israeli leaders' new method rests on the following bases: 1. Seeking to win over to Israel's side the Western European states, particularly France, and to improve Israel's relations with these states to confront U.S. support for Egypt at the talks and to try to avoid international isolation.

2. Trying to stall the peace talks for as long as possible and to cloud Israel's position to take advantage of the existing circumstances in the area. In addition to this, Israel pins its hope on the end of President Jimmy Carter's present term in office and the election of a new U.S. president, who might back down from the position of supporting Arab righteousness and push the issue into new blind alleys.

3. Working to create confusion over Egypt's constant fixed attitude toward the peaceful settlement to foster estrangement and prevent any rapprochement between Egypt and the other Arab states.

However, it is imperative for the Israeli leaders not to forget that their foreign minister, Dayan, once described Israel's position in the Arab area as a transplant that has not yet been accepted by the remaining parts of the Arab body. Consequently, and if the constructive efforts that are being exerted to achieve a just peace fail because of these leaders' obduracy, the alternative will then be exposing the whole area to a great disaster.

Egypt states that peace is coming, sooner or later, and that it is imperative to make the October War the last one. If the Israeli leaders believe that Egypt, in making this statement, wants to achieve peace by any way and at any cost to rid itself of its problems, then they are entertaining an illusion. This is because Egypt works for peace from a position of strength, not weakness. Furthermore, Egypt keeps at heart the best interests of all the parties concerned.

SECURITY SERVICES UNCOVER SUBVERSION ATTEMPTS

NC040745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feburary--AS-SIYASI reports today that important information will be announced soon to the effect that the Egyptian security services have obtained detailed information on what are described as desperate subversive actions that some rejectionist states have tried to carry out in order to undermine the safety of the Egyptian internal front. The paper also points out that the Egyptian security services have learned the truth behind some publications that appeared recently: they are financed by the rejectionist states and are designed to cast doubt on certain conditions and harm known Egyptian elements.

The paper says that the Egyptian security services used advanced technology to learn the truth about some of these publications.

KHALIL ASKS MINISTERS TO PREPARE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NC030803 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 February--AL-AHRAM reports today that Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil has asked the responsible ministers in Egypt to prepare a comprehensive plan on Egypt's major development projects. The plan will be submitted to the United States, Japan, the FRG and other Western countries that will participate in financing it under "the Carter plan." The Carter plan will be similar to the famous Marshall Plan, which helped rebuild West Europe after World War II. AL-AHRAM adds that when the studies pertaining to the plan are completed, Khalil will preside over a meeting that will put the plan in its final form before submitting it to the participating countries. President as-Sadat will be visiting the capitals of some of these countries in the spring to discuss the details of this major plan and the money needed for it.

PRESIDENT TITO ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JN041000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0952 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb--Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito arrived in Baghdad from Kuwait at noon today on an official 5-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

President Tito was accorded an official and popular welcome at Baghdad International Airport headed by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. He was also received by members of the Revolution Command Council, ministers and senior officials. He was also greeted at the airport by a large crowd, estimated at a quarter million people, waving Iraqi and Yugoslav flags and hailing Iraqi-Yugoslav friendship, the nonalined movement, and Yugoslavia's support of the Arab cause.

Talks Begin

JN041739 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb--The official Iraq-Yugoslav talks began here this evening. The Iraqi side was headed by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the Yugoslav side by President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito.

The two sides reviewed the relations between their friendly countries in an atmosphere of deep friendliness and understanding. They also discussed the most important Arab and international issues of common concern and future [word indistinct] of the nonalined movement.

Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and planning minister; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, foreign minister; and the Iraqi ambassador in Belgrade. Attending the talks on the Yugoslav side were Branko Mikulic, member of the Federal Council for International Relations; Dobrivoje Vidic, president of the presidency of the Socialist Republic of Serbia; Josip Vrhovec, federal secretary of foreign affairs; Andrej Marinc, vice president of the Federal Executive Council and chairman of the Yugoslav side of the joint Iraqi-Yugoslav committee; and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad.

Banquet Honors Tito

JN041955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr held a banquet in the Republican Palace this evening in honor of Iraq's great guest, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and his accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by members of the Revolution Command Council, the ministers, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the Baghdad mayor, the Baghdad District governor and the general policy deputy director. The banquet was also attended by the chiefs of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited by Baghdad.

Tito Awards Medal

JN041958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb--Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito awarded President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr the great Yugoslav Star Medal. This is the most important medal to be presented to a head of state.

On receiving the medal here today, President al-Bakr expressed his appreciation of the Yugoslav president and of the close friendship linking the two countries' peoples and their joint struggle against imperialism. Al-Bakr said: I will keep and honor this medal as a symbol of our two peoples' friendship.

Tito Meets Defense Minister

JN051009 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 5 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb--Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, received in his residence at As-Salam Palace at 1100 today 'Adnan Kayrallah, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister.

The meeting dealt with ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries' armed forces.

President Tito had earlier placed a wreath on the unknown soldier's monument.

IRAQ, SOVIET UNION SIGN TRADE EXCHANGE MINUTES

JN031531 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb--Joint minutes were signed here today by the joint Iraqi-Soviet trade committee.

The minutes were signed for Iraq by Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, Trade Ministry under secretary, while Ivan Grishin, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, signed for the Soviet side.

In a speech he delivered, 'Awdah praised the committee's results as embodied in the joint minutes.

Grishin praised the development of Iraqi-Soviet trade and economic relations and said that they constitute a cornerstone of their joint militant relations.

The minutes make reference to the inclusion of new products, needed by both countries' markets, in their trade exchange, and contain the 1979 bilateral trade plan by which trade exchange will be expanded. According to the joint minutes, Iraq will export large quantities of dates, cigarettes, leather, woolen textiles, machine-made carpets, woolen blankets and other commodities to the Soviet Union. In turn, the Soviet Union will export large quantities of products and commodities needed by Iraq production and consumer establishments to Iraq.

The joint Iraqi-Soviet trade committee began its meetings in Baghdad on 27 January.

SUDANESE MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN031512 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 February--A Sudanese military delegation led by Staff Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid, chief of the Sudanese Army's General Staff, arrived here this afternoon on a several days' visit to Iraq.

The staff general in charge of the armed forces General Staff and the Sudanese charge d'affaires and military attache in Baghdad welcomed the delegation at the airport.

MEDIA COMMENT ON EVENTS, CHURCH'S STATEMENTS

Amman Radio Commentary

JN031854 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] President as-Sadat stated yesterday that there are no problems between Egypt and Israel on Sinai. "Israel has asked to purchase Sinai oil at market prices and we have agreed."

Also yesterday, Hodding Carter, U.S. State Department spokesman, said that the peace negotiations leading to conclusion of an Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement were in their final stages and that the entire Middle East peace process was moving forward. Finally, Senator Frank Church, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, criticized President Carter's administration yesterday for not trying to neutralize the Saudi role in the Middle East and called for a re-examination of the planes deal with Saudi Arabia.

If we compare the three statements, we discover that President as-Sadat has offered a new concession in order to resume bilateral negotiations with Israel. This concession amounts to giving up the Suez Gulf oilfields at a time when Iran has stopped supplying Israel with oil for reasons connected with the Arab cause. We also find that increasing pressure is being applied on President Carter's administration by Zionist lobbying groups to limit U.S. political action to those channels that would insure Israel's aggressive and expansionist Middle East policies and would also force the U.S. administration to apply counterpressures on Arab countries, especially on Saudi Arabia, which contributed with other Arab countries to formulating the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad. The statement about the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations reaching their final stages and about the progress in the Middle East peace process is an overt deception by the U.S. State Department spokesman designed to cover up for the new Egyptian concession and for Frank Church's threats against Saudi Arabia. Despite that, the three statements attempt to reflect the great changes that have occurred in the area, beginning with the negative effects of the Iranian events on the Zionist entity and ending with the Syrian-Iraqi Joint National Action Charter. The palpable facts indicate, as do the Egyptian information organs, that Israel is not working for peace and that it is only interested in insuring its aggressive and expansionist policies in the Middle East. To do so, Israel will try to turn the United States against the Arab countries that rejected the Camp David agreements and to freeze the role played by Egypt, which has now accepted incomplete agreements, thus sacrificing Egypt's pan-Arab and Palestinian commitments and the Egyptian oil in Sinai without recovering a single inch of occupied Egyptian territory or obtaining even one guarantee of a change in Israel's expansionist ideology and its policies of armed aggression and absorption of Arab territories. Therefore, the peace brandished by As-Sadat and the U.S. State Department spokesman will never be a step on the road to achieving security and stability in the Middle East countries, as evidenced by Menahem Begin's latest statements on Israel's military preparations on the northern and eastern fronts. At the same time, Israel is trying to obstruct the conclusion of the peace treaty in order to keep Egypt outside the struggle for which Israel is preparing on both the northern and eastern fronts.

If the latest threats by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman are intended to deceive the U.S. administration through Zionist blackmailing pressures and to oblige it to adopt stands contradictory to U.S. interests in the Middle East, it becomes clear that Israel is trying to destroy U.S.-Arab relations on one hand and inter-Arab relations on the other by stressing the Egyptian role in the bilateral negotiations.

Thus the consequences against which Jordan warned following the conclusion of the Camp David agreements appear with all their dangerous aspects in the area's effects on the U.S. administration, due to Israel's exploitation of what is currently taking place in order to achieve its expansionist objectives in the Middle East.

AR-RA'Y Attacks Church's Statements

JN030752 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Feb 79 pp 1, 12 JN

[Editorial: "Who Is Threatening Whom?"]

[Text] Now that he is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Frank Church, who is known for his Zionist leanings, has threatened Saudi Arabia, requesting that President Carter's administration review Washington's relations with Riyadh.

Senator Church's threats against Saudi Arabia are no different than Israel's threats against Saudi Arabia and the other Arab countries. But why is Senator Church raising his fist against Saudi Arabia in particular? It is because he is one of the pillars of the Zionist thought which dominates the legislative branch in the United States. Saudi Arabia has never been in need of Washington. But Washington needs Saudi Arabia.

For the sake of truth and not in defense of a fraternal country which is eloquent enough to defend itself, we say the United States is the last country that should threaten Saudi Arabia. It was Saudi Arabia that maintained the balance of the dollar after it suffered throughout the world. It was Saudi Arabia that persuaded the OPEC countries to keep oil prices within limits acceptable to the United States despite the enormous losses that the oil-producing countries sustained in their revenues. It was Saudi Arabia that kept its petrodollar reserves floating in the American markets to keep the staggering U.S. economy going.

Despite all this, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee advocates cancelling the U.S. plane deal with Saudi Arabia, which can purchase its needs from any world market. Furthermore, Senator Church interprets the show of force by the U.S. F-15 squadron over Saudi Arabia as a U.S. favor, while in fact it has been interpreted as a U.S. insult to fraternal Saudi Arabia and to the Arab world.

The question is: Who is threatening whom, and who needs the other in the game the pro-Zionist senator is playing in the U.S. Congress?

If the United States continues to view its interests, friendships, and links with the Arab world from the point of view of the theoreticians of the aggressive, expansionist Zionist strategy in the Middle East who cannot comprehend the reality involving the developments in the Arab area, then we must face up to the challenge. Who is to tell the truth, to say who can threaten whom and who needs the other: the United States or the Arabs?

Certainly Saudi Arabia is the side entitled to make a reply, although as Arabs, we would love to dot the i's vis-a-vis Church's statements. Sorry about that.

AD-DUSTUR Assails Church

JN030753 AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Feb 79 pp 1, 15 JN

[Editorial: "He Did Not Speak for Long, But When He Spoke, He Was Detestable"]

[Text] With the area passing through a very critical phase, and when experience has shown that the tactics of pressure and intimidation in international politics have become outmoded, Senator Frank Church, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has used the platform of the B'nai B'rth Zionist organization to unleash a campaign of instigation against the Arabs who refused to be dragged into the Camp David process. He has called on President Carter's administration to put direct pressure on Saudi Arabia, to suspend the plane deal with Saudi Arabia on the pretext that Saudi Arabia is primarily responsible for obstructing the peace process in the area.

Senator Church went even further, asking the U.S. administration not to allow "Jordanian-Palestinian hesitation" toward the Camp David process to slow down this process. He also criticized the U.S. administration for failing to use the needed pressure.

Senator Church's remarks indicate he is still thinking in old colonialist terms. He has failed to understand any of the events taking place in the area and cannot comprehend what tactics are required for international dealings. Needless to say, such instigation does not intimidate the Arabs and will not make them change the positions they have adopted toward the Camp David process, even though these positions harm U.S. prestige in the area and cause the U.S. administration embarassment during the difficult situation it is now facing.

Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Palestinians and all the Arabs who refused the "illusionary process" which began at Camp David do not need someone to determine the course they should follow. Furthermore, they reject any interference with their position or any threat directed against them. The time has past when the future of peoples can be decided in foreign capitals. Experience has proven that nations are stronger than the parasites who try to determine their future.

The position of the Arab leaderships which have interacted with their peoples and have frankly and courageously rejected the Camp David mockery is stronger than the clamor of Senator Church and his irresponsible instigation, which are good for nothing except winning Jewish votes in the United States at the expense of the prestige and stature of the United States.

If Senator Church wants President Carter's administration to wear the clothes of a policeman and to come to our area threatening, intimidating and using pressure, then he must know that there is no room in our area for the American policeman, because we have had enough of the Israeli thief who is still receiving the support of Washington and is treated like a pet.

Senator Church has made a bad start as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee by instigating against the Arabs. He has refrained from talking against the Arabs lately, but as the saying goes: "He seldom spoke, but when he did he was detestable."

VOL: SYRIAN FORCES OPEN FIRE IN BEIRUT

NC041555 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 4 Jan 79 NC

[Text] At about 1530 today the Syrian forces opened heavy machinegun, DSHK and anti-tank fire on the As-Sayfi area, precisely on Al-Arz and Tripoli streets. The sound of bullets is still being heard.

Further VOL Report

NC021956 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The clashes which broke out at 1810 today have extended to all the southern suburbs, including the Chevorolet, Mar Marun, Mazda, Al-Matahin, Al-Hayah, Ar-Riha, (Al-Juwabdah) quarter, Furn Ash-Shubbak, At-Tahwitah, and the Badaru main street up to Hursh Al-Kufuri. These areas are being subjected to intensive artillery fire. According to our reporter, about 40 60-mm, 80-mm and 120-mm mortars have been noted in addition to 105-mm guns. Several attempts to infiltrate Al-Hayah and An-Najda areas were foiled.

Our reporter says that Syrian military vehicles were seen moving in the Ad-Dikwanah and Hursh Thabit areas. He also says that the shooting was coming from Galerie Sim'an and the Chevrolet areas in the direction of (Al-Juwabdah) quarter and the At-Tahwitah area.

Syria tanks and artillery emplacements in Shatila circle are bombarding the southern suburbs. Our reporter says that a building was seen ablaze from the artillery fire. Sporadic shooting and sniper fire is reported in As-Sayfi area.

VOL: IRANIAN STUDENTS OCCUPY BEIRUT EMBASSY

NC021258 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Text] About 20 Iranian students occupied the offices of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut this morning, where they pulled down the shah's photographs and replaced them with those of Khomeyni. With the cooperation of some of the embassy's employees, the students then posted a metal sign at the embassy entrance which reads "The Embassy of Islamic Iran in Beirut."

VOL: PALESTINIANS DETAIN EGYPTIANS IN BEIRUT

NC050839 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 5 Feb 79 NC

[Text] It has been learned that some Egyptian workers employed by the Beirut flour mills have been detained by Palestinians elements because they are Egyptians. It is reported that the workers are being held at Sabra Camp for interrogation.

U.S. AMBASSADOR MAKES STATEMENT AFTER MEETING WITH SARKIS

NC021230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Text] At 0930 today President Sarkis met with U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John Gunther Dean. The meeting ended at 1040 and the U.S. ambassador said: I had a general discussion with his excellency the president. We discussed the question of the south in particular. The fact that the president has summoned me to a meeting is an indication of the interest of his excellency as well as that of the Lebanese Government and people in this subject.

He added: President Sarkis explained the Lebanese Government's views, which I will convey to my government. I can say that we denounce violence anywhere, and especially in southern Lebanon.

The U.S. ambassador was asked: What is new at this stage regarding the south?

He answered: I do not know everything that goes on. Only God knows. But we continue to support Lebanon, especially in quelling violence.

AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT AFTER MEETING 'ARAFAT

NC032025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Dr Sal'm al-Huss held a meeting at his home in Ad-Dawhah with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and PLO Central Council member Salah Khalaf. The meeting was attended by PLO's permanent representative at the United Nations, Dr Basil 'Aql, and Engineer 'Ani Salam.

The discussions dealt with local and international developments, particularly in relation to the situation in the south and means of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 444.

After the meeting Prime Minister al-Huss said that the discussions centered on the general situation in the south and the efforts which the state is exerting to revive its administrative presence, stabilize security in the area and insure stability there. He added: The discussions also dealt with the steps which the Lebanese Government must adopt to follow up and insure the full and effective implementation of the recent Security Council resolution. 'Arafat fully responded to the request that he cooperate with the Lebanese authorities in everything which could help stabilize the situation in the south and lead to the imposition of Lebanese authority throughout Lebanon.

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH IRAQI AMBASSADOR 4 FEB

JN041403 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 February--Dr Salim al-Huss, prime minister of Lebanon, received Qasim as-Samawi, Iraq's ambassador to Lebanon, here this morning. Following the meeting, As-Samawi said that his talks with the prime minister centered on the general situation in the south and the dangers there that result from the Zionist entity's aggressive attempts to carry out its schemes in Lebanon and in the region in general. The talks also concerned methods of stopping these attempts.

Replying to a question on Iraq's role in assisting Lebanon, As-Samawi said that Iraq supports Lebanon's international efforts to entrench its unity, independence and sovereignty over all its territories.

VOICE OF LEBANON: AMERICAN, FRENCH SUSPECTS RELEASED

NC021835 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 2 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The interrogation of the American national who was arrested at the Ministry of Information is continuing. It has been revealed that he carries several different passports.

Philipe Riveau, a French national, was released today while Donald Webster Stecher, another American national, was released yesterday. The two men were arrested in 'Alyah on 22 January on suspicion of involvement in the assassination of Abu Hasan Salamah, commander of the special operations in Fatah. Riveau and Stecher were being detained in solitary confinement and had been questioned by the chief investigator in the public security directorate.

INA: RIGHTISTS HIRING MERCENARIES, RECEIVING CIA FUNDS

JN041148 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 4 February--The newspaper JAMAHIR LUBNAN, which is published here, reported today that a mission of the Lebanese rightist forces recently visited a number of European capitals to sign contracts with groups of mercenaries to fight within the rightist ranks.

Citing a source close to Dori Sham'un, the officer responsible for military affairs in the rightwing National Liberal Party, the paper said that the rightist front has decided to recruit 500 mercenaries to use in the military operations it is planning to carry out in the eastern quarter of Beirut and in southern Lebanon against the joint forces.

JAMAHIR LUBNAN said that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has paid the rightwing front $30 million. He said that in addition to the enormous funds the front is receiving from the CIA, it is also obtaining money from NATO and Zionist financial and industrial firms in Western Europe to enable it to carry out its suspicious plans.

MENA: ISRAEL LINKS HADDAD'S WAGES WITH UN RESOLUTION

NC031004 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 3 February--The Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR says today that Israel has made the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution on south Lebanon conditional on the Lebanese Government's abandonment of its decision to stop the wages of Maj Sa'd Haddad, whose forces control the border strip with Israeli support.

AS-SAFIR says the Israeli condition, which UNIFIL commander Gen Emmanuel Erskine conveyed to the Lebanese officials, affirms the continuation of the Israeli obstruction of the implementation of the Security Council resolution and confirms the Israeli adoption of the armed militias in the border zone.

Meanwhile, the newspaper AL-'AMAL, mouthpiece of the rightist Lebanese Phalangist Party, says today that the Lebanese Government has decided to stop the wages of some 430 soldiers who represent elements in the Lebanese Army supporting Maj Sa'd Haddad. The paper quotes an official source as saying that the decision came into effect on 1 February.

PDRY LEADER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT 3 FEBRUARY

JN031803 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Excerpts] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, arrived in Damascus from Tripoli at 1230 today at the head of a delegation on a visit to Syria.

The PDRY leader was received at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad; Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi; Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, assistant regional secretary; and several members of the party national and regional commands. Also in attendance were deputy prime ministers; the ministers; Muhammad Faruq al-Hamawi, Damascus governor; Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi, PDRY ambassador in Damascus; and the heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Damascus.

'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, made the following statement to the SANA correspondent:

It pleases me, on behalf of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium and the PDRY Government, to greet the heroic Syrian people under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led by Brother Hafiz al-Asad. I am also pleased to wish these people victory in their just struggle against world imperialism and the Zionist enemy for the liberation of their occupied land.

I am pleased to express my satisfaction with this visit, which we believe will open a wide road of exchange regarding bilateral experiments in economic and social transformation and in consolidation of the struggling ties between the Yemeni and Syrian peoples. This visit is important in that it occurs under new circumstances in our Arab area due to the capitulationist Camp David agreement recently signed by the As-Sadat regime.

In light of these circumstances, we are deeply confident that the visit will further contribute to strengthening the common struggling relations between our peoples within the context of struggle against imperialism, Zionism and their hirelings. It will also enhance coordination and bilateral cooperation in our joint interests and will strengthen the pan-Arab and liberation role of the Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, to which both countries belong.

On this occasion, we support and laud the Joint National Action Charter signed by Syria and Iraq, which constitutes a new force in the Arab people's struggle that will enable fraternal Iraq to play a positive role alongside the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front together with the other fraternal member states.

I believe that this visit will contribute to unifying our peoples' struggling capabilities, as part of the just pan-Arab struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and to champion the Palestinian cause, under the PLO, for establishing their independent state and thwarting all conspiratorial and capitulationist designs intended to harm the Arab national liberation movement.

It is certain that my visit and talks with brother President Hafiz al-Asad and the other Syrian leaders will involve, in addition to Syrian-PDRY relations, those international issues that are of mutual concern and that pertain to liberation, peace and socialism in the world.

The delegation accompanying Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il includes Muhammad Salih Muti', party Politburo member and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, Central Committee member and industry minister; and high-ranking officials.

Official Talks Begin

JN041304 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--An official round of talks was held at the Presidential Palace this morning between President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium of the PDRY.

Participating in the talks for the Syrian side were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya, Education Minister Zuhayr Mashariqah, Industry Minister Shutaywi Sayfu, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Chief of Staff of the Army and Armed Forces General Hikmat ash-Shihabi. Attending the talks for the PDRY side were Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Salih Muti', Industry Minister 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, Deputy Information Minister Rashid Muhammad, Deputy Chief of Staff Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, Deputy Education Minister Hasan as-Salamah and PDRY Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi.

Al-Asad Meets Separately With Isma'il

JN042145 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1900 today President Hafiz al-Asad met separately with 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Yemeni Socialist Party secretary general and chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium. President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il continued their discussion of the Arab situation and international issues of mutual interest. They also discussed means of further developing fraternal relations between Damascus and Aden. 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il then had dinner with President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Arafat Meets With PDRY President

JN041035 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 4 February--'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, has met with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman, and Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin) and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym (Abu Mahir), members of the Fatah Central Committee, were also present. The meeting reviewed the current political situation in the Middle East on Arab and international levels, as well as the development of relations between the PLO and the PDRY.

Reporting this today, TISHRIN says that 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Arafat expressed concern over the serious developments resulting from the capitulatory Camp David agreements between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity and the intensive conspiracies by U.S. imperialism and Zionism against the Arab liberation movements.

Abd al-Fattah Isma'il assured Yasir 'Arafat of the PDRY's support for the Palestinian revolution in its struggle to regain the Palestinian Arab people's rights, including their right to establish their own independent national state. Isma'il expressed the Yemeni people's denunciation and condemnation of the capitulatory Camp David agreements.

Isma'il asserted that the PDRY will continue to function within the framework of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and will also work with all the devout Arab nationalists to confront plans to undermine the Arab liberation struggle, especially the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate Arab territory and set up a Palestinian state.

PDRY Information Minister Interviewed

JN030925 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 3 February--TISHRIN today publishes an exclusive interview with Rashid Muhammad Thabit, PDRY information minister. Thabit stresses that the establishment of a constitutional and ideological unity between Syria and Iraq will change the balance of power in the area, will result in the mobilization of all the capable Arab forces, and will help to overcome the negative aspects in the Arab struggle.

Thabit adds that the anticipated Syrian-Iraqi unity will raise the morale of the Palestinian Arab people, who have been subject to more continuous campaigns of subjugation, usurpation, expulsion and injustice than any other people in the world. The Syrian-Iraqi unity will also insure the Palestinian future and the success of the Palestinian struggle.

Thabit describes the Syrian-Iraqi National Charter and the Higher Political Committee statement as a painful slap in the face of all imperialist circles. He adds that imperialist circles have recently been trying to weaken the inevitable bond between Syria and the Palestinian revolution, believing that any such gap would assist those advocating a capitulatory policy and particularly the treacherous As-Sadat initiative. But, Thabit explains, the Syrian-Palestinian bond has withstood all plots and triumphed in its fierce battle against the enemies. The PLO's solid support for the Syrian leadership and its frequent statements that Syria is the foundation of steadfastness and the leader in the policy of confrontation in proof of this.

The PDRY information minister says that all the countries who are collaborating with the imperialist-Zionist designs are doing so because they are too weak to make any political decision in the area. These sides have been faced with the fact that political decisions belong to the nationalist movement only. He says: As-Sadat has lost his bet that the Arab ranks would deteriorate. Recent developments in the area on the Arab and international levels attest to As-Sadat's failure. As-Sadat now knows that imperialism and all those who collaborate with it are no longer capable of changing the situation and that the final word now belongs to the struggling peoples who refuse to relinquish their just rights.

Talking about the visit to Syria of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, Thabit says this visit comes within the framework of the joint Arab action and in accordance with the plans of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. It is aimed at repulsing and confronting all capitulatory settlement efforts and further consolidating Arab solidarity and unifying the struggle against imperialism.

ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI HAILS SYRIAN-IRAQI ACCORD

JN041042 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Feb 79 JN

[Text] At a meeting with the Arab ambassadors in Damascus yesterday, Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, exiled archbishop of Jerusalem, affirmed that Arab unity is the pillar and effective weapon of the battle of liberation against the usurping Zionist enemy to regain the Palestinian people's rights.

Archbishop Capucci hailed the Syrian-Iraqi accord and the steps being taken by the two countries on the road to total unity.

ALGERIA

EL MOUDJAHID ASSAILS MOROCCAN 'PROVOCATIONS'

LD021209 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 29 Jan 79 p 4 LD

[B. Amazit article: "The People Cannot Be Deceived"]

[Text] The Moroccan monarchy has taken its escalation of provocation against Algeria a stage further. In fact, it has passed within a few weeks the bounds of slander, verbal abuse and incitement to revolt to plunge straight into assailing our sovereignty and national security.

As long as it was a matter of distilling over the airwaves the poison--ineffective at that--of a backward and sterile ideology while appealing to the king's trusty subjects or of filling the columns of newspapers in the monarchy's pay with lying cliches, the Algerian people, fortified by their convictions and their gains, could only smile and feel sympathy for the fraternal people of Morocco, whose sons--the best of them--are rotting in the jails of Hassan II's regime when they are not being sent to certain death on the borders of the desert, facing the Saharan people struggling to recover their inalienable rights. As long as it was a matter of making international opinion believe that a "latent revolt" was smoldering in Algeria and that merely to drop arms and ammunition would be sufficient, as the saying goes, to "ignite the powder keg," the Algerian people, more vigilant than ever, reacted with the promptness and speed required by such crude provocation. But the monarchy has now gone beyond the mere intention by undertaking terrorist actions.

While stricken by deep mourning, the Algerian people were preparing to continue their sacred task of building by setting up one of their latest institutions in holding the sessions of the National Liberation Front. Maghnia, a border town, was the scene of a cowardly act of aggression on the part of Rabat. The monarchist special services have once more dared to assail our national security. Some 17 people have been wounded. The perpetrator of the outrage is a Moroccan citizen. Its organizers are the Moroccan special services. The culprit is Hassan II's regime. Identification of the criminal hand leaves no room for doubt.

Furthermore, in Oran, another attempt to harm the Algerian people was thwarted in the nick of time. A small suitcase containing a bomb was seized by the national security services at the last possible moment.

What, therefore, is Rabat seeking unless it wants to aggravate the tense conflict situation which it has created in the region through its refusal to recognize the Saharan people's rights, for the monarchy of Hassan II will be unable to progress any further if it persists in its hostile attitude. If its aim is to destabilize Algeria, this can only show how shortsighted and how completely ignorant of Algerian reality the feudal regime is. Algeria's stability is based neither on demagogic foundations nor on any alliance with some foreign power but on the achievements of its people, solid institutions and profound belief in an irreversible option shared by the entire nation.

It is true that the recent provocations and the many bellicose statements made in Rabat do not surprise us even though we are not indifferent to them. By acting in this way, Hassan II merely shows his great despair in seeing that, historically, he is the loser.

It is certainly not by getting bogged down in an armed conflict with Algeria that he will be enabled to save what remains of his monarchy. His present guest--the shah of Iran--will, after all, be able to confirm, if he has not done so already, that you cannot deceive the people by pointing your finger at the enemy of your choice. It is clear who is the enemy of the Moroccan people. His name is not "Algeria." Furthermore, these cowardly acts of aggression, which are reminiscent of Israeli raids against Lebanon in retaliation for Palestinian raids, will never be able to stop the POLISARIO Front's successes in its offensive which rightly bears Houari Boumediene's name. But even though the Moroccan monarchy identifies itself with Israel and Zionism, let it be aware that Algeria is not Lebanon.

MOROCCO

RABAT REPORTS LETTER FROM BOUCETTA TO ALGERIA'S BOUTEFLIKA

LD022234 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Following the treacherous aggression against the town of Tan-Tan, M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, has sent a letter to his Algerian counterpart, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, foreign minister of the fraternal Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. Here is the text of Boucetta's letter to Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika:

His excellency the minister: The town of Tan-Tan was subjected to flagrant aggression on Sunday, 28 January, 1979. In addition to huge material losses, a number of innocent Moroccans were killed, both during the aggression and after it.

Thus Moroccan territory has again been attacked and its sanctity violated by forces marshaled, organized and equipped by Algeria--forces which start off from Algeria and to which they return after having performed their missions.

In the face of the repeated armed aggressions against Morocco, as you are aware, His Majesty King Hassan II expressed the intention in the past of exercising the right of pursuit--a natural and internationally recognized right of every sovereign state whose territory has been violated, but one which, up to this day, Morocco has not exercised. This is because Morocco clings to the hope that the current incidents will not be given more weight than their transitional nature demands, and because Morocco wishes to bypass these incidents and not take them as being a manifestation of a fundamental attitude.

Morocco has purposefully decided to control itself and to wail for its victims--enduring in dignity and pride the losses it has suffered. Above all considerations, Morocco wants to preserve the future and to refrain from all actions that might lead into a state from which there should be no return.

We could have retaliated to the aggression of Sunday, 28 January, with a similar aggression and with the same degree of ferocity and severity; but we preferred not to reply because, once more, we are trying to avoid embarking on a road from which there can be no return and because, above all, and particularly, we are taking into consideration with heartfelt sympathy the particular tragic conditions which the people of fraternal Algeria are experiencing.

The object of this letter is not to complain; otherwise, the letter would have been formulated in a different type and form. What is intended by it is to draw your attention and at the same time appeal to your true fraternal intelligence and reason. By virtue of your following of the endeavors and efforts exerted by His Majesty King Hassan II and the late President Boumediene, and by virtue of your participation in these efforts, you know more than anyone else and better than anyone else that President Boumediene's health was not the only reason that prevented the agreed-upon meeting between the two heads of state.

No one could ever think that the decision to hold such a meeting was taken haphazardly. It was a decision preceded by a great deal of thought on behalf of the two heads of state.

Therefore, I can say without any fear of making any mistake that their meeting would certainly have brought about an end to the dispute and opened up vistas for great and effective fraternal cooperation between our countries. Such cooperation is our primary objective.

I personally know of the intelligence and wisdom you possess. Therefore, I do not expect you will misconstrue this initiative of mine.

Are we not right in wondering whether there might be hidden forces, hostile to us and you, which are working to create a situation which will make any understanding between you and us impossible and to create an atmosphere of estrangement from which there can be no return?

It has been stated that, one night, and under cover of darkness, arms were dropped into Algerian territory. Not long after, Morocco was accused of being the culprit.

A bomb explodes in an Algerian town, but without waiting or thinking, a person is arrested and is said to be a Moroccan and, so simply, he admits that he had acted upon the orders of the Moroccan authorities.

Two aggressions are then arranged to take place, one after the other, in the Moroccan town of Oujdia. At the site of the aggressions, clear material evidence is left which leaves no doubt that those who committed the crime were Algerians.

The escalation has continued to the point where it has reached a still worse level: Moroccan territory was today attacked and the town of Tan-Tan was stormed. The aggression resulted in a number of people killed and losses which have not yet been estimated.

Morocco will analyze the situation seriously and objectively and will make a decision dictated by conditions. As Morocco begins to exercise its legitimate right, it will know how--at the right moment--it will take the necessary steps to defend its national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of its citizens. Yet from now on, be confident that Morocco's decision will be taken after consideration, and will contain no traces of emotionalism or anger--a decision which will not run contrary to the sublime interests of the Maghreb bond. The fraternal unity and cohesion of the Maghreb bond has always been one of our basic interests.

At this time, all the Algerian people are being mobilized to choose for themselves the men who will guide the country's destiny. I believe there could be no better moment to give events deep thought and a precise evaluation.

The responsibility we shoulder demands that we be extremely alert and, in the first place, ask: Are not there hidden hands which are working away from all directions with the aim of obstructing what the late President Houari Boumediene had decided upon prior to his death; namely, a meeting between him and His Majesty King Hassan II? It was only the health of President Boumediene that prevented the holding of this meeting which, inevitably, would have constituted one of the great political actions in view of the results that were expected to come out of it.

Your excellency Minister, please accept our utmost regards.

MADRID PAPER CARRIES BOUCETTA STATEMENT ON DIALOG WITH ALGERIA

LD051004 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Madrid paper, EL PAIS, yesterday published a statement by M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, in which he stated that Morocco will not take any step that will block a dialog with Algeria to put an end to the state of tension now prevailing in the area.

Speaking on the Moroccan Government's attitude toward the recent aggression on Tan-Tan, Boucetta said that it is a wise one which refuses to fall into the trap laid for our country by those elements opposed to an Algerian-Moroccan dialog.

Boucetta said that it is still premature to state whether Rabat will take the initiative for opening the dialog. It is not yet possible, he said, to start talking about any possible meeting between His Majesty King Hassan II and Colonel Bendjedid.

As to the attack on the Spanish ship Cruz Del Mar, Boucetta stated that Morocco had no connection whatsoever with these actions. He pointed out that the Algerian pawns and henchmen have tried by their well-known demagogy to cast doubts on the Spanish and Moroccan stands with the purpose of creating a rift between the two sides.

212 ENEMY SAID KILLED IN ACTION FOLLOWING TAN-TAN ATTACK

LD041330 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] Following the treacherous aggression against the town of Tan-Tan recently, our royalist armed forces have carried out a quick combing operation and have inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on the aggressor forces. These are estimated at over 212 killed with scores of wounded and huge losses in equipment.

National political circles have praised the courage and steadfastness of our armed forces and strongly denounced the barbaric aggression by Algerian mercenaries against the town of Tan-Tan.

The Executive Bureau of the National Rally of Liberals held a meeting yesterday and issued a strong appeal to all citizens, military and civilian, to increase their vigilance and close their ranks to strike at the intruding criminal aggressors.

COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE ATTACK ON TAN-TAN

LD021502 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tan-Tan, Feb 2 (MAP)--King Hassan of Morocco charged here Thursday, a delegation, presided over by Khalil Hanna Ould Rachid, secretary of state next to the minister in charge of Sahara affairs, to inquire into the situation of the citizens of Tan-Tan and their different problems after the attack by Algerian mercenaries in this city.

The delegation held a meeting with the population of Tan-Tan. Ould Rachid related King Hassan's sentiments of gratitude and solicitude to the citizens, emphasizing the sovereign's great interest in his subjects in this region.

The delegation also received the families of the martyrs of the agression, reassured them of their future and delivered the condolences of the sovereign.

The delegation then visited the city's port to inspect the work which is in progress for its construction and which is considered among the largest in Morocco.

WESTERN SAHARA

ALGIERS: SDAR REPORTS FURTHER ON TAN-TAN ATTACK

LD030025 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Summary] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry issued a statement yesterday giving the first details of the Saharan attack on Tan-Tan. The statement said that the defensive complex of military installations in and around Tan-Tan could not repel our firm will to successfully carry out the attack everywhere against the enemy forces. After concentrated firing with heavy weapons on 28 January, our gallant fighters breached the outer defensive perimeter of the town.

The statement said that 17 royalist soldiers were captured including 10 Spaniards. The fighters captured large quantities of weapons and vehicles, including 9 jeeps, 12 machineguns, 16 mortar's, 214 rifles, 36 ammunition boxes, a mobile radio station, and about 10 transmitters and 14 trucks, 4 of which were loaded with provisions and medicines.

The statement added that hundreds of Moroccan soldiers were killed and wounded; 294 bodies were counted on the field. During the attack the fighters destroyed 4 tanks and 18 trucks. During the occupation of the town the Saharan Army set fire to 9 trucks and about 120 civilian cars.

The statement added that on the same night, the Saharan Army attacked Moroccan forces in other areas in the northern front. The fighters shelled enemy barracks in Bir Mazaran on (?26) and 29 January. An ammunition depot was hit causing the death or wounding of 10 occupation soldiers, and on 25 January 1979, the Saharan Army carried out similar attacks against the occupiers in Tifiriti and (Jdiriyah) in which two defensive positions were destroyed and at least six Moroccan soldiers killed.

SAHARANS LAUNCH NEW ATTACK IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO

LD051038 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Defense Ministry of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic this evening released a new military communique saying that a unit of the Saharan resistance launched a new large-scale attack on the Moroccan royalist aggressive forces near (Lehsaiat) in southern Morocco, killing 48 enemy soldiers and wounding about 30; 1 F-5 also was shot down.

The Defense Ministry also gives the results of the successful attack on Tan-Tan: 314 royalist soldiers were killed; more than 300 were wounded. After the successful attack against Tan-Tan, the Saharan resistance forces carried out other operations in the same region, inflicting heavy losses on the expansionist forces. In this respect, the communique states that on 31 January the Saharan Army ambushed an enemy patrol; they engaged the patrol in the area of Wadi [word indistinct]. The fighting continued until the afternoon. The Moroccan Air Force tried in vain to relieve the besieged patrol: 1 F-5 was shot down; 10 military and armored vehicles were destroyed; 48 soldiers were killed and about 30 wounded. On the same day, attacks were made on Amgala and [word indistinct] posts killing at least nine soldiers.

ALGIERS: POLISARIO CAPABLE OF IMPOSING MILITARY SOLUTION

LD051042 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 5 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] The Saharan people and its spearhead, the Saharan People's Liberation Army, are capable of imposing a military solution in Western Sahara. This is what a member of the Executive Committee of the POLISARIO Front Sid Ahmed el Batal, has said.

After the crushing attack on Tan-Tan, a new large-scale operation has been carried out in southern Morocco within the framework of the Houari Boumediene offensive.

In liberated Saharan territory, Moroccan soldiers captured in the Tan-Tan operation were presented to the national and international press yesterday. Journalists were able to talk to about 100 Saharans, some of whom had been held prisoner in the town and were rescued, and were able to see considerable quantities of military equipment, (?various guns), landrovers, (?armored) trucks, tankers and so on captured in this important operation.

Sid Ahmed el Batal, member of the Executive Committee of the POLISARIO Front and one of the top leaders of the Saharan units, also held a press conference at which he enumerated the great victories won by the Saharan People's Liberation Army in the Houari Boumediene offensive. The Saharan leader stressed that the Moroccan Army is no longer capable of confronting the Saharan People's Liberation Army, and said that in view of the blindness of the Moroccan regime and the continuation of its annexationist policy, the Saharan people and its armed forces are determined to impose a military solution in Western Sahara and to carry the war deep into Moroccan territory.

DAYAN REPORTS TO CABINET ON TRIP TO FRANCE

TA041715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has said that as a result of his visit to France, the French Foreign Ministry will send a senior official to Israel to discuss bilateral economic issues against the background of the negative trade gap Israel has with France. Dyan was speaking at the Cabinet session in connection with his report on his visit to France.

Dayan noted that even though no understanding was reached on the political issues that were raised, a dialog has been established which will be maintained continuously on all levels. He added that his Paris interlocutors promised him that France's representatives in the EEC will take a favorable attitude toward Israel's cause.

BEGIN REJECTS ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE

NC040712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0510 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that Israel will make every effort to renew the peace negotiations with Egypt. The prime minister was speaking yesterday in Jerusalem to members of the United Jewish Appeal from Britain and Latin America. The prime minister briefed the guests on the events that led to the present situation in the negotiations and, at the end of his talk, appealed to the members of the United Jewish Appeal to donate to a project to rehabilitate the living quarters of families in financial distress. Our correspondent Shalom Oren has excerpts from the prime minister's speech.

[begin recording] [Oren] The prime minister says that the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza do not want autonomy. They are demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Begin--in English] Ladies and gentlemen, may I assure you that there never will be a so-called Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza because it would be a mortal danger to our civilian population; man, woman and child. But autonomy, self-rule--yes.

[Oren translates into Hebrew and adds] The prime minister also discussed the possibility of an attack by the eastern front states against Israel after Israel signs a peace treaty with Egypt.

[Begin--in English] We will never ask foreign soldiers to come to our aid and to fight our battle. We shall sustain our independence ourselves. We have a wonderful young generation, and barukh hashem [thank God], we have a good army--a good, Jewish victorious, invincible army of Israel. [Oren translates into Hebrew] [end recording]

RABIN ON DIFFERENCES IN TRANSLATIONS OF CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

TA050730 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 5 Feb 79 p 6 TA

[By HATZOFE correspondent for party affairs]

[Text] "The Hebrew version of the Camp David agreements is a total distortion of the English version," former Prime Minister MK Yitzhaq Rabin said in a lecture on Saturday evening in a club of religious youths in Ra'ananna.

Mr Rabin added that while the English version speaks of "a self-rule" regarding Judaea and Samaria, the Hebrew version talks of "independent administration." Similarly in English it refers to "Palestinian Arabs" while in Hebrew they are called "the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el." Rabin fiercely attacked the atuonomy plan defining it as a "political Mongoloid unprecedented since the establishment of the state." According to him it is possible to enlist U.S. support for Israel's defense needs but it is very difficult to find supporters even among the U.S. Jewry for settlements which do not answer defense needs. In Mr Rabin's opinion, the legal formulations are worthless if none of the parties intends to keep the peace treaty and, therefore, Israel's vital requirements must be guaranteed and legalistic pedantry avoided.

Rabin stressed that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee is equipped with the information it needs. He rejected the criticisms that not everything is brought to the knowledge of the committee. He also mentioned that during his term in the prime minister's office he sometimes found it necessary not to bring secret material to the attention of the committee.

The evening was moderated by the chairman of the club, the deputy head of the Ra'ananna Council, Zvi Koenig.

RABIN RAPS AUTONOMY PLAN, URGES STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH

TA021159 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 79 p 2 TA

[By DAVAR's Haifa correspondent]

[Excerpt] Former Prime Minister MK Yitzhaq Rabin, said yesterday in a seminar in the Department of Political Science at Bar Ilan University that it is impossible today to reach an immediate and comprehensive peace with all the Arab countries without conceding all the territories and that therefore it is preferable to maintain the step-by-step policy.

Yitzhaq Rabin attacked the Cabinet's autonomy policy and the way in which it is conducting the negotiations. He proposed striving toward joint rule with Jordan over the West Bank as an interim plan, following which a territorial compromise would be reached.

ALINEMENT WILL SUPPORT AUTONOMY IF TIED TO PEACE PLAN

TA031429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, said that a bad autonomy plan with peace is preferable to a good plan without peace. Peres said this in answer to questions by 53 senior officers of the Canadian Army attending the defense college in their country and who are currently visiting Israel.

Peres noted that inhis assessment there is no majority in the Knesset today for the autonomy plan. However, if this plan is submitted to a vote together with a peace agreement, in other words, if there is no separation between the two parts of the proposal submitted to the Knesset, the Alinement will vote for it despite everything.

Peres reiterated that it is impossible to hold negotiations with the PLO both because of its composition and because of its positions and methods of operation against the State of Israel.

CABINET CREATES COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH SINAI SETTLEMENTS

TA041901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to set up a committee of directors general to deal with the settlements and the settlers in the Sinai, except for those which are dealt with by the settlement division in the Zionist Federation. The committee will be authorized to approve temporary construction work and take other measures in order to permit normal life during the negotiations [with Egypt]. The members of the committee will be asked to tour these settlments as soon as possible and meet with the residents there. The director general of the prime minister's office, Eliyahu ben-El'azar, will head the committee; the construction minister will guide its work and the directors general of all the pertinent ministries will serve on it.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that the Cabinet reached this decision after the committee of the Ofira settlers warned the prime minister that many of the residents may leave it if the Cabinet does not extend them immediate aid.

The Cabinet has also decided to set up a committee to look into and work out ways to heal Arki'a [domestic airline]. This committee will be headed by the transport minister and the finance minister; the industry, commerce and tourism minister will also be a member

MA'ARIV COMMENTS ON U.S.-ISRAELI INFORMATION EXCHANGE

TA021554 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Feb 79 p 18 TA

[Uri Dan commentary: "The Israeli Mouth and the U.S. Ear"]

[Text] Israel has lost the element of surprise vis-a-vis the United States in the past. Washington knows, in advance, about just about every Israeli move--political, military, settlement--and if any such Israeli move does not fit in with America's own inclinations, America intervenes without delay and tries to frustrate it.

An essential military operation in Lebanon? Washington has cautioned Israel in advance more than once, and on occasion has even succeeded in deterring it, regarding arms consignments for the Christians, for instance; in using the IDF to aid the Christians when they were being shelled mercilessly by the Syrians following Camp David, to cite another example.

The same applies to the political sphere. Starting in the winter of 1978 and until this day, the United States has maneuvered Israel--with the passive and active aid of ministers in Israel's own Cabinet--in such a way that Washington has not lost control of the Israel-Egypt negotiations and now is their sole directing element, as a full partner.

On the subject of settlement the United States is watching not only every decision Israel makes, but also what the Israelis are implementing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. If they learn of a secret Israeli decision, there is an immediate U.S. intervention in an attempt to prevent its implementation. That was the case when the Cabinet's secret decision on establishing three Nahal outposts in the Gaza Strip and the Jordan Valley was leaked.

These manifestations also attest to the complex problems of Israel-U.S. relations; on the one hand Israel needs the United States, her only major friend, and now more than ever. On the other hand, fulfilling one's own interests, such as on the crucial question of establishing a Palestinian state, as well as in other matters, requires Israel to keep some of her cards to herself, without the United States' sharing in all of her planning and all her moves.

That is exactly how the United States behaves toward Israel. The most recent known example was the affair of the long letter which Egypt's prime minister, Mustafa Khalil, sent to Washington with regard to the negotiations conducted by Alfred Atherton in Jerusalem. Prime Minister Begin himself felt the need to deplore, and perhaps even publicly denounce, the fact that the Americans did not let Israel have the complete text of Egypt's reply, only "selected parts."

But this complaint was apparently out of place, not only because Washington, as we know, plans its moves hand in hand with Cairo rather than with Jerusalem, but also because in principle the United States--and rightly so, in its view--takes those steps which are commensurate with its own interests.

If we add to this the suspicions and tension which have increased in relations between the White House and the Israeli Cabinet, especially when the peace agreement was not signed on the allotted date of December 17, 1978, the U.S. stand in principle has been reinforced by highly practical reasons on keeping certain thoughts and moves a close secret from Israeli eyes. There were times--and they are not all that distant either--when Israel, too, was prudent about planning those actions which were necessary, far from the watchful eyes of Washington.

More than 20 years after the Sinai campaign, Allan Dulles' book (he was the head of the CIA at the time) has just been published. This book proves how well Israel succeeded in keeping the joint military operation, with France and Britain, secret despite the fact that so many elements were involved in it.

It turns out that the CIA's knowledge of the preparations for this operation was too little and too late. Israel successfully undertook a surprise attack in Sinai.

This is a striking example, and it is far from being the only one, of the importance of the weapon of surprise in the hands of a small country still fighting for its survival.

True, the head of the "MOSSAD" [Israeli intelligence service] in those days, Isar Har'el, who was also in charge of the security services, took special steps to prevent the secret's being leaked. He made certain that not only the Soviets and their agents in Israel were kept "out of the picture," but the Americans, representing President Dwight Eisenhower, as well. By various means Isar Har'el kept everyone away from the Americans who might have been able to furnish them with advance information on the top-secret Sinai campaign. This was first and foremost a question of unnecessary and perfectly innocuous chatter. Then there was of course Isar Har'el's effort to carry out a diversionary operation, to make it appear that Israel was supposed to launch an attack on Jordan and Iraq, while the operations division at headquarters was in fact planning the breakthrough into the Sinai desert.

But no less important than the covert and administrative measures that were adopted on the eve of that fateful operation was the contribution to the surprise element, made by the behavior--civilian and national--of the partners to the secret. [paragraph continues]

The national responsibility of those sharing it with Israel or to whom it had been leaked ahead of time--including those who opposed David ben-Gurion, who was prime minister and defense minister at the time--helped him and his colleagues to plan their moves on such a critical issue where Israel was concerned in those days, without being disturbed. This was not just an ordinary surprise, it also entailed tactical and strategic sophistication on all levels (and it is irrelevant to our present discussion whether the operation was justified or not.)

Israel has taken the "surprise" road all along. For many years this little country managed to conceal its joint planning with the French in various spheres from all eyes. And during that time Israel also succeeded in establishing political and other important ties with countries such as Iran, Ethiopia, Turkey--which in their embryo stage were kept well away from various other elements, including France ("our friend and ally") and the U.S.

Quite apart from the aforementioned, there are military operations and similar things which by their nature, and especially under the conditions pertaining to Israel, also demand secrecy in the case of the most loyal of friendships.

But all that changed after the 6-Day War, and especially after the Yom Kippur War, with Israel's dependence on U.S. weapons increasing. The rivalry in Israel's leadership resulted in a deluge in the flow of information to Washington--which was well exploited in those difficult days of negotiations conducted and dictated by then Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger.

Only with the last remnants of its strength was Israel able to keep secret an operation such as the raid at Entebbe, where leaks could have caused a terrible disaster. More than 24 hours before the Israeli landing at Entebbe, the "situation room" in Washington received a report that Israel was apparently planning a military operation connected with the Entebbe hijacking. A U.S. representative in Israel reported that somewhere in Ben-Gurion Airport, near the Israel Aircraft Industries, Boeing aircraft (belonging to the Israel Aircraft Industries) were being painted with the El Al colors.... Henry Kissinger later recounted that he had received a further warning only a few hours before operation Entebbe, but had decided to put off dealing with it (let us remember that in this, at least, the moral and political support of the United States was expected).

The urge many "top" Israelis have for letting "our American friends" in on Israel's intentions, in advance and in detail, became one of the trademarks of the previous government. The Israelis were even more anxious to feed the Americans information than the latter were to swallow it. The present Cabinet tried to change this custom. Its peace initiative, which brought President as-Sadat to Jerusalem, fell on Jimmy Carter's Washington as a complete surprise.

Washington, which flabbergasted Israel by signing a joint Soviet-U.S. statement in October 1977 calling for a new Geneva conference, then found that it was its turn to be surprised following President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. The United States realized that Menahem Begin, the man who had come into power contrary to all the forecasts and expectations, who was portrayed as "an obstacle to peace" had initiated the peace move, among other things by sending Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to meet with As-Sadat's emissary Dr at-Tuhami.

The United States was so surprised that when Menahem Begin went to Washington, with prior warning, in December 1977, even the members of the National Security Council in Washington thought that there was an Israeli-Egyptian connection of which the United States knew nothing, and that it was being kept "out of the picture."

The overwhelming Israeli surprise of the 1977 peace initiative provided the Begin cabinet with a golden opportunity for conducting direct negotiations with Egypt, making the most of this success and carrying out further joint moves together with Egypt and without the United States--at least up to certain limits, before the superpower recovered from its surprise. The "2,000-year-old dream" of conducting direct negotiations with Egypt was within reach.

But Israel lost this unique opportunity. From the moment the United States was permitted to become the manager of the negotiations and a party in them, Israel became a follower--her thoughts and moves and plans spread out for the United States to see at every step. At that point the United States began to strive for an overall solution, i.e. combining the solution of the Palestinian problem with the agreement with Egypt in one framework.

From then on, with the problem of Israel and her neighbors occupying the forefront of U.S. foreign policy activity, the United States did everything possible to insure that Israel would not take her by surprise again and that her moves would not deviate from U.S. interests.

And it transpires that Israeli figures--in the coalition and opposition--are helping the United States in this, intentionally and unintentionally, all in the legitimate framework of "the rules of the democratic game." It is natural for members of the alinement leadership, who are doing everything they possibly can to return to power, to turn to their "old friends" on various levels, at parties (social and official) both here and in Washington, and to analyze for them, in detail, the state of the Begin cabinet and its thinking and aims.

Incidentally, Ahron Kohen, the Near Eastern scholar from [Kibbutz] Sha'ar Ha'amaqim, who was tried and convicted for betraying secrets to foreign representatives at the end of the 1950's, was punished for much less--but the representatives in question were Soviet.

It can of course be argued that the rivalry between Washington and Jerusalem cannot be compared with the basic hostility of the Soviet Union vis-a-vis Israel, even when a Soviet ambassador was stationed in Tel Aviv. But good as the United States was at exploiting the rivalry between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, it outdid itself in the course of this past year where the rivalries at the top of the present Cabinet are concerned. We know that special U.S. experts in Washington made scientific analyses of every Israeli figure before the Israeli delegation of prominent figures went to Camp David. But there are personalities and ministers in the present Cabinet who have neither learned nor forgotten what happened in the Alinement's day. And they are the well-spring of the important reporters at the U.S. Embassy, who report to Washington, and whose conclusions form the basis of every U.S. move where we are concerned, and for thwarting irksome Israeli moves.

How can Menahem Begin conduct a proper policy worthy of the name when senior U.S. representatives hear from people who are supposed to be loyal to him expressions such as: "If I were in his place I would have concluded the negotiations long ago," or "everything Kreisky said about Begin is correct, and I could add to that..."

The failure of both coalition and opposition to realize that this is a time of overwhelming emergency, and the disastrous lack of sensibility of the fact that Israel today, more than at any time before, stands on the edge of a volcano--these do more than any other factor to breach all the dams in the contacts of Israelis with Washington.

That is why the United States can take the liberty of penetrating and following every Israeli military development and action. [paragraph continues]

It behaves like a lord in the territories--as the holder of extraterritorial status--(hence the close U.S. contacts with the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank, either through its consulate in East Jerusalem or through various philanthropic organizations). The U.S. representatives there are already busy with the stage that comes after the autonomy--steps preparing for the establishment of the Palestinian state.

Nothing can be done about this, just as the United States would not dream of restricting the movements of representatives of Israeli organizations in the United States. But it can be noted that on various occasions, and not especially openly, the present U.S. administration does make light of the Israeli Cabinet. In January 1979 the United States, "elder sister," is treating Israel like a step-sister at best.

And in the land of "hard core porn," the United States, where the most daring sex pictures are shown, there is not even one picture of the Israeli sister in the nude which could be called complimentary.

Given this situation, and these bare facts, we can deal with them only provided that we acknowledge their existence. But the need to take self-defensive measures and to return to Israel her initiative and ability to surprise has become crucial, also in view of the risks Israel is shouldering by signing the peace agreement with Egypt, and especially in the light of the future of the autonomy as well as the U.S. regional deployment in the wake of the avalanche in Iran and her endeavors to make Egypt, together with Saudi Arabia, into her strategic-military support in the region.

We have already realized that the U.S. appraisals of the situation could be totally wrong, despite the wealth of information flowing into Washington. The fall of the shah, contradictory to Washington's assumption, also attests to the fact that with a little effort Israel could go back to taking the "surprise" road.

DAVAR COMMENTS ON PROSPECTS, IMPLICATIONS OF TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

TA021748 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 79 pp 15, 18 TA

[Mordekhay Barqay article: "A Summit--Not Under Any Condition"]

[Text] Had the U.S. administration said to Israel and Egypt: Let us try to settle what has not been solved during all the post-Camp David efforts on a level of heads of state, and then if we succeed--all the better; and if not--we will not regret the intention or the effort and will continue to find different ways as the goal is greater and more important than considerations of personal or national prestige. If the administration had said this today (and indeed the last passage is made up completely of fragmentary quotations from administration sources) then it would have been necessary to convene Carter, Begin and As-Sadat for a summit meeting without further ado. After all, under such convenient circumstances they will not begin discussion starting with A, but will get down to Z right away.

This distinction, by the way, is not mine. The members of the Middle Eastern Department in the U.S. Department of State are the ones who claim that Atherton did not return empty-handed this time and that not only Israel, but also Egypt, has contributed to bridging the gaps between the positions.

The one who reacted to this with a forgiving yet skeptical smile was Alfred Atherton. He said that he has always maintained that it should be called: "The U.S. mission" or "the U.S. delegation." Still, he accepted the existing term: "All right, let them call it the Atherton mission."

There was someone who advised me to be cautious in underestimating Atherton, the honest, patient and thorough diplomat: "When the history of the peace talks is written," (the speaker knows of three who are writing it, "it would be worthwhile to give Atherton the credit he is due for having done a lot to clarify the situation and to isolate problematic elements, to pull out the many weeds."

These were, as will be recalled, off-the-cuff comments in the events that a summit meeting is convened under certain convenient circumstances.

However, what if the circumstances are different: If the Egyptian president reaches the conclusion that what has not been achieved in the Blair House and Madison Hotel talks or in the Brussels meeting and in Vance's shuttles can only be attained in a summit convened by the U.S. President; and if in order to point out his desire that a summit be convened, he has demonstratively avoided meeting with Atherton; and if the [U.S.] President says that if necessary, he will not hesitate to call the two "principals," but in same breath our spokesman warns us that God should save us all from another U.S. failure on the presidential level in these negotiations.

Under these circumstances the conclusion is different: The Israeli Cabinet had better not want a desperate "Democlean summit"; it should prefer a discussion in any other forum, even one similar to the one that has disappointed us or that seems to have been exhausted if only to fill in the time vacuum. Israel and Egypt could, each on its own, want to propose another tripartite summit to advance their interests in the peace treaty that will be signed between them. Similarly, and for the same reasons, they can also reject or foil the reconvention of such a summit. They can theoretically--apparently only theoretically, though not in effect--decide on a bilateral Begin-As-Sadat meeting like the Jerusalem and Ismailia meetings. But to actually convene a meeting with the participation of the president of the United States--this only the U.S. president can do. The President--and spokesmen on his behalf say he will not--may convene a summit.

But this is smooth talking. They would not be telling a lie if they said that the Carter administration wants another Middle Eastern summit. Moreover, the Carter administration is not prepared to conceive that the last step in bridging the gaps toward signing the peace treaty be conducted without the active participation of the President. He needs the participation.

Such an intention--and perhaps even a decision--is not only legitimate, but it is also just. The U.S. President deserves to take part in picking the first fruit from the peace tree. After all, he played a vital part, if not in the planting, then in the growing, cultivating and ripening processes. It is only right that he collect the political dividends in his own district, the United States.

President Jimmy Carter not only deserves this, he also needs it.

Last Wednesday, the joint New York TIMES-CBS poll on Carter's public image was published and the findings were not good; in fact they were worrying. The results show that "Carter continues to generate the distinct image of honesty and reliability, but not of leadership." This dimension, first and foremost among the demands on a president, is very pale. The distribution of the replies of those questioned in the polls indicates differences of esteem according to geographic, cultural, economic, ethnic and partisan sectors and only one outstanding element brightens up the picture slightly. The graph of the public respect for Carter's performance as a president clearly indicates that in the end of January 1979 he continued to enjoy the credit he received almost at once in mid-September 1978, when he went with Begin and As-Sadat from Camp David to Washington to sign the framework agreement. His prestige as a leader to this day relies on the peak of esteem he received then from 53 percent of the public. If it were not for that, his prestige would have dropped below the red mark of 40 percent. There was no other achievement--whether in domestic or foreign affairs--at that time.

Neither the Panama Treaty nor the curtailment of unemployment nor the firing of Bella Abzug from the committee on women and not even the normalization with Peking could give him the strength of leadership which he achieved in bringing Israel and Egypt closer to peace, and only a blind man would not regard this as a very flattering answer to the question of how the U.S. citizen evaluates peace and its maker.

The survey mentioned here is a running survey carried out periodically. Its findings are useful for periodic comparisons, but the implication of the January 1979 findings is different from their implication last year. Then the public got to know the President at the end of his breaking-in period; today the public tests the President at the beginning of his running for a second term.

This is one of the considerations in the tossing of the coin on whether or not Carter will convene the summit. Perhaps this is not the first consideration, but it certainly is not the least.

The formulation acceptable until not long ago said that President Carter will convene a new Middle East summit in one of two extremist cases as follows: if it transpires that without such a meeting everything that has been achieved so far in the peace process will collapse; or if the opposite transpires--that it is possible to call a new summit since all the obstacles have been removed and success is guaranteed.

The formulation holds true today too, no doubt, but the second possibility is desirable whereas the first possibility is frightening. The energetic Chinese deputy prime minister left Washington and is now touring Texas. Perhaps Vance, Brzezinski and all the Middle Eastern brain trust will not find time to return to the tiring Middle East and give their thought to how--through a diplomatic interim move--to block possibility A and thus guarantee possibility B: a successful conclusive summit.

SHARON WARNS AGAINST INTERNAL DISPUTES WITHIN LIKUD

TA021212 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Feb 79 p 3 TA

[By A. Kinarti]

[Text] "Anyone in our midst planning options to betray the Likud is likely to come out the loser, both from the personal and the party aspect. And those among us who think that if they look toward the Labor Party they will keep their places and positions and stand to benefit from a change of government when that takes place, are under a grave misapprehension." [paragraph continues]

Agriculture Minister Sharon voiced this warning last night in the course of his speech before the Likud Council, which met in Tel Aviv after a 2-year interval. Its agenda included a discussion of the issue of immigration and absorption.

Sharon mentioned no names, and his accusations were taken by some of the council members to be directed at the heads of the Liberal Party. Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, who sat in the Presidium with the Likud ministers, left after the opening address by Jewish Agency Chairman Arye Dulzin.

Sharon's remarks gave rise to resentment among some of the liberal leaders, and Minister Moshe Nisim, who chaired the meeting, asked Sharon "to speak to the motion on the agenda."

Sharon called on the Likud "to stop presenting the present government as worse than previous governments. Our own people in the Likud make these statements, which verge on libel." Continuing his attack, Sharon said: "I hear these calumnies from our own people, who are already preparing to spruce up to be ready for a change of government. They accuse the government at every opportunity."

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said: "There are many among us who are 'dying' to be with the opposition." When Sharon said that his efforts at establishing the Likud 5 years ago had succeeded, Dr Yohanan Bader, a Herut veteran, called out: "Heaven help us. Why did you have to succeed?"

Noting that he had already heard something of what was being said in the Likud about the possible return of the Alinement to power, Sharon said that such a possibility existed, due to the accusations the Likud is leveling at the government even before it carries out what it has undertaken to carry out.

Here MK Ge'ula Kohen interjected: "God forbid."

Sharon also said that the Alinement cabinet had fallen "because of the lack of any central national goals, and this government will not hold out either unless it can raise up--for itself and the people--central national goals and vision."

He called on the Cabinet to "stop discussing periods and commas," and set itself as challenges the goals of immigration and settlement, and to stop uprooting orchards in the plains in order to build housing on agricultural soil, instead of building in Judaea and Samaria, in the Galilee and in the Negev. "A populated area between Hadera and Ashdod--copying the Jewish Bronx or Brooklyn--cannot come under the heading of Zionist vision or goals."

MK Moshe Shamir sharply criticized the Cabinet for preoccupying itself with trivialities instead of with self-fulfillment.

Minister David Levi argued with Dulzin regarding rights and powers concerning immigration and absorption, and rejected the idea of letting the Jewish Agency deal with absorption matters.

MA'ARIV DISCUSSES EHRLICH MANEUVERS IN LIKUD

TA021145 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Feb 79 p 24 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] Various interpretations have been given to the "bomb" tossed this week by Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich when he said that Prime Minister Menahem Begin had told him he would not "run" at the head of the Likud ticket in the next election, in which case it would be preferable that the Liberal Party appear in the election on a separate list.

There were those who estimated that here Ehrlich was "showing his muscles" to the members of the Herut Party who have been attacking him. Others said that this is a warning directed toward the party with the goal of pointing out to his colleagues and to the party leadership that it is necessary to put an end to the internal disputes and to unite toward running separately.

There were those within Herut who maintained that Begin had indeed expressed considerations about a possible retirement earlier than he had planned (in the past Begin had said that he would retire at 70, that is, in summer 1983--2 years after the next election) and that Ehrlich was trying to persuade him to change his mind because he could not foresee another appropriate candidate.

MK Mikha'el Deqel of Herut commented this week, after he had been asked whether, in the wake of his remarks, Ehrlich was already making preparations within his party toward having it run separately in the elections that "even in the last election Herut appeared independently, but it allocated seats to other members of the 'Likud' of its own free will...."

The truth is that the finance minister has said several times in the last few months already that if Begin resigned the Likud would no longer exist and that "I cannot find a common language with anyone in the Herut movement." He rejects all the possible candidates for premiership in Herut--Yitzhaq Shamir, Ari'el Sharon, Prof Moshe Arens and 'Ezer Weizman. In the past he was a fervent supporter of Weizman, but for some time now he has had reservations about 'Ezer's candidacy, claiming that his conduct and reactions make him an unacceptable candidate for the high position.

However, Ehrlich has never publicly revealed the entire plan he has in mind in the event that Begin resigns. It is difficult to believe that he thinks that the Liberal Party is able to appear independently and receive the same number of Knesset seats it has currently (15).

The truth is that Ehrlich has indeed been talking about the dissolution of the Likud after Begin resigns, but he is not thinking of a separate appearance of the liberals in the present partisan setup, but rather dreams about establishing a center party the basis and backbone of which will be the liberals. He would like to reach a situation in which, if such a party does not get the majority of votes and cannot crown its own leader as prime minister, it will have the power to dictate who will take this position both to the right and the left (in fact, this is something in the style of the DMC's initial desire--to be able to tip the scales).

According to Ehrlich's evaluations, some of the moderate Herut members, headed by 'Ezer Weizman, would join the Center Party, whereas the more extremist Herut members would join other hawkish bodies such as La'am--both of its splinters--the Greater Israel Movement, Gush Emunim and the like, but they would not get more than eight seats. He would like to attract to the Center Liberal Party what remains of the Democratic Movement, a large part of SHAY and the independent liberals.

At the same time, Ehrlich has reservations about some of the former DMC men from both its splinters. Thus, for example, he would have been prepared to accept in the Center Party (as well as in the present Liberal Party) MK Amnon Rubinstein, but not MK Mordekhay Virshubsky, and he also fears Shmu'el Tamir's joining it.

Ehrlich claims, indeed, that he lacks the right people to head such a party and to be candidates for the premiership, but the evaluation is that if indeed such a party is established one day, Ehrlich will once again support 'Ezer Weizman as the candidate for prime minister. However, he may perhaps still regard himself as a candidate.

Last week, a new element entered onto the scene. Anyone who read the interview with Ehrlich in last Friday's MA'ARIV could not have overlooked the praises the finance minister heaped profusely on former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. As a result, there were evaluations that Ehrlich thinks that he could also add to the Center Party a group of Labor Party members headed by Rabin, and perhaps even support him as a possible prime minister.

However, Rabin's opponents in the Labor Party, led by Shim'on Peres, say: "Rabin will never take such a step. He is not built for it."

When Peres was asked whether he would give Rabin a place in his cabinet, and whether--if not--Rabin's exclusion from the next Alinement cabinet could not push him into the arms of a new party, he said something like this: "I am at the head of the list, but I am no dictator. Of course I will try to influence the composition of the Alinement cabinet, if and when it should come to power, but I will accept whatever the party decides."

MODA'I INTERVIEWED ON LIBERAL PARTY SITUATION, OIL ISSUE

TA021403 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Feb 79 p 28 TA

[Interview with Energy, Infrastructure and Communications Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Dov Goldstein--time and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Do you insist that Ehrlich must resign from his position as finance minister?

[Answer] I will not comment on this today. There is extreme personal tension between us and I would not like to add to it.

[Question] Do you regard yourself as a candidate for finance minister?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Do you have aspirations for the premiership, when the time comes, and do you regard yourself as capable of fulfilling that job?

[Answer] Today, definitely not. When the time comes, it depends on the development of events. I am not ruling such a possibility out, but I am at present not operating with this calculation in mind. I regard my mission as efficiently carrying out my ministerial function and my job as being a member of the ministerial team.

[Question] Will you compete against Ehrlich for the leadership of the Liberal Party in your upcoming convention?

[Answer] Yes! Undoubtedly!

[Question] How do you evaluate your chances?

[Answer] Since Ehrlich stated that I may have perhaps 10 supporters within the Liberal Party, I have conducted a "recount," and an exact one, and the obvious conclusion is that Ehrlich has hardly more than 10 supporters in the party.

[Question] Ehrlich said that if the prime minister carries out his intention and does not stand in the next election as the candidate for prime minister, the Liberal Party may seek the voters' confidence as a separate party. Do you agree with this path?

[Answer] No. I maintain that this was said based on Ehrlich's totally private opinion. The matter has not been discussed in any partisan forum. Neither do the circumstances point to any such development. I hope Begin will serve as prime minister even after the next election. This will happen after the peace treaty with Egypt is signed and at a time when the Cabinet could point to real achievements in economic, social and administrative affairs.

To talk today, after the Likud has proved its inner strength in functioning together, about the subject of the need to prepare for a separate appearance in the election, to me this sounds--how shall I put it--strange. And I have a friendly piece of advice for Ehrlich...

[Question] Seeing that you are such close friends...

[Answer] And even if we are not the best of friends, can't I suggest something? This is my suggestion: If, indeed, Begin had been the one to express this assumption or had clearly stated that he would not head the next Cabinet or would not be the Likud leader in the next elections, it would have been Begin--and Begin alone--who would have announced this to the public at a time he chose, and under no circumstances is it the duty of the man to whom Begin spoke about his intention in confidence to report it, especially in view of the fact that Begin did not tell him this so that he should publicize it.

[Question] If you please, I would like to ask two questions pertaining to your direct concerns as a minister: Concerning the report which has recently appeared in the British FINANCIAL TIMES citing a senior source in Jerusalem that Israel's situation with respect to the oil issue has worsened and there will be no way but to ration oil and raise oil prices substantially. This report has been vehemently denied by your ministry. Is this true? Has Israel's situation not worsened in light of the events in Iran? Will there not be a need to ration oil and raise its price substantially?

[Answer] In order: Israel's oil situation has worsened. This is clear. However, we took steps in time--and are currently taking steps--not to reach a critical situation of a shortage and distress. We have emergency plans for oil rationing and they are consolidated and worked out to the last detail, including the impact on the various sectors of the economy and the society.

[Question] Can these plans be implemented at once?

[Answer] There are some plans which, if the need arises, could be implemented at once without delay. Other plans need a certain period of time for preparations before they can be implemented.

However, I still hope that we will not need any of them, even though it may well be that we will want to encourage and promote saving on oil requirements and limiting the use of it in voluntary ways, and perhaps even with measures to regulate the economy.

[Question] That is, by a substantial price rise which will repel consumers and will bring about energy savings?

[Answer] Yes. This is one of the ways, but the price rise will occur in a manner which will only marginally inconvenience the citizens and Israeli economic and social activity.

MILITARY TO CHECK W. BANK MAYORS' ATTEMPTED GATHERINGS

TA021517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The military authorities in Judaea and Samaria want to check which regional mayors disobeyed the order of the military governors and came to Hebron in order to pray in the Makhpela Cave. The commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin ben-El'Azer, told our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that the military authorities may react severely to their action. Our correspondent notes that the Halhul mayor was summoned to the offices of the Hebron governor to discuss the question of violating the prohibition and the attempt to have a gathering in his townhall without permission. He claimed to our correspondent that he did not intent to violate the prohibition and that the mayors entered his office only in order to have a cup of coffee.

WEST BANK STUDENTS STAGE RIOTS; CURFEW IMPOSED

NC041018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] This morning, students in Ram Allah and Halhul staged riots. In Ram Allah, the students hurled stones at security forces and at the police station, then rioted in their school courtyards and continued throwing stones at the security forces from the rooftops. A curfew has been imposed on the schools and parents of the rioting students have been summoned for questioning at the military governor's office this afternoon.

In Halhul, two tourists were injured while they were traveling in their car on the town's main street after several students hurled stones at their car and smashed its windows. These students also set up roadblocks and burned tires. Several students were arrested.

ARAB MANIFESTOS ATTACK 'ZIONIST INCITEMENT'

TA041439 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Feb 79 p 2 TA

[By Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] The movement of the "Sons of the Village" and the "Progressive Sakhnin" movement, who had kept silent following the publication of the manifesto by the Arab students who are members of the Progressive National Movement, have at last decided to make their voices heard and have come out with a fierce attack on the extreme rightist forces who are inciting against the Israeli Arabs.

According to them, this incitement reflects the "true face of the official and nonofficial Zionist incitement, enmity and racism."

The new manifesto dwells on the circumstances leading to the publication of the document of the Arab students and discounts the claim to the effect it was simultaneously sent to the Palestinian National Congress in Damascus. The "Sons of the Village" also deny that that the purpose of the original manifesto of the students is to bring about the liquidation of the State of Israel and that it calls for an armed struggle against it.

The new manifesto, which condemns the house-arrest orders [issued against the Arab students who published the manifesto], states that the nationalistic students "well know the limits of freedom of expression and that the attempt to silence them constitutes a severe blow to the law."

The two movements call on the democratic forces, both Jewish and Arab, to understand that dealing a blow to the Arab students' freedom of expression constitutes a blow to every Palestinian and every democratic person struggling for peace and freedom.

The movement of the "Sons of the Village" calls for a struggle to defend the national forces, to do away with the "cancer" of the house-arrest orders, to return the students to the universities, to allow freedom of expression and to silence the extremist inciters.

It is widely thought that this is a moderate manifesto meant to reinforce the argument of the "Sons of the Village" to the effect that they conduct their struggle within the framework of the law and with joint Jewish-Arab forces.

The Secretariat of the "Committee for the Protection of Lands" has also come out with a manifesto against "the hostile campaign in the communications media, the iron fist policy and the talk which recalls the events of 1948."

The committee emphasizes that all this will not prevent the Arab public from keeping up its struggle against the policy of expropriating lands, destroying houses and trampling rights.

DISTURBANCES IN RAMALLAH CONTINUE 3 FEBRUARY

TA031828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Feb 79 TA

[Excerpt] There was a partial commerce strike in addition to disturbances in schools in Ramallah today to protest the demolition of the terrorists' houses. The students of the Ramallah schools hurled stones at the security forces and at cars and erected roadblocks.

HIGH COURT BARS DEMOLITION OF ARAB HOUSE

TA031834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The High Court of Justice has issued an interim order prohibiting the demolition blowing up or the sealing of a house in the Tal 'Azariyah neighborhood in Jerusalem. A father and a son suspected of having connections with the Abu Dis group of terrorists live in this house.

ONE KILLED, TWO HURT IN E. JERUSALEM EXPLOSION

TA032012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Feb 79 TA

[Text] A sabotage charge exploded inside a house on Haqay Street in the old city in Jerusalem, apparently while it was being prepared for use. An East Jerusalem resident was killed and two others, East Jerusalem residents as well, were injured. The charge was connected to a gas container and the ceiling of the house collapsed due to the power of the explosion.

TERRORISTS SEVER S. LEBANON ROADS; UNIFIL CASUALTIES LISTED

TA041952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Feb 79 TA

[Excerpts] Clashes between Shi-ite forces and leftist fighters took place today in the village of 'Antar. The Shi'ites blew up four houses in the leftist-controlled village. This was stated in reports from Lebanon. It has also been reported that the terrorists have severed the roads from Tyre south. Following the shooting down of the UN helicopter last night, UN sources told our military correspondent, 'Amiram Nir, that, all told, together with those killed over the weekend, 17 UNIFIL soldiers have been killed in clashes in action; more than 30 were wounded and more than 100 people were kidnaped and were later released following negotiations. Our correspondent notes that none of those killed, wounded or kidnaped was hurt by the Christians and that all these are the results of clashes with terrorists inside the UNIFIL-controlled area.

SECURITY FORCES NOTE DETERIORATION IN TERRORIST CAPABILITY

TA041601 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1345 GMT 4 Feb 79 TA

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, 4 Feb--Security elements believe that the uncovering of scores of terrorist squads and the detention of many people suspected of carrying out subversive activity has led to a decrease in the number of veteran and well-experienced terrorists who had operated in Israel and the territories. The result is that the attempts in Israel are being made by young terrorists, and often by terrorists who have only undergone superficial training in terrorist activity. This has resulted in many cases of "work accidents." The ITIM Jerusalem correspondent reports that this assumption has recently gained ground due to the fact that in ten incidents over the past few months the terrorists were unable to prepare the explosive charges they wanted to lay in Israel and many of them were hurt when the charges blew up in their hands--probably because of a lack of knowledge. The frequent occurrence of such "accidents" points to the marked deterioration in the performance of the various terrorist organizations. This is most probably due to the fact that most of the major terrorists responsible for the dozens of incidents in Israel--such as the Abu Dis group and the one from Ramallah, as well as terrorists from Hebron, Jericho and other places--have been detained.

WEEKLY JOURNAL COMMENTS ON BENEFITS OF RECENT UNREST

LD021440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Press review on current domestic upheavals]

[Excerpts] Hoseyn Mehdi writes in the weekly Tehran MOSAVVAR: Someone asked me: Was freedom worth all these people who were killed? My emotions responded: If freedom were achieved, yes, it would be worth it! Nevertheless, my commonsense said: No, it would not be worth it!

It is said that in the course of the past year the movement has lost 65,000 people dead; and bullets can still be heard and, as if we were being generous at others' expense, we would continue to say that the movement still has to give blood; not our blood, but the blood of the people. Yes, 65,000 dead! Who spilled all this blood? Have you ever thought of this question? Have you ever thought that by causing death and martyrs one could not fell a sapling with grown roots? [sentence as heard] Have you ever thought that no martyr will ever prove anything, as Andre Gide said? I beg the reader to ponder these questions deeply and not, as is the sick fashion of the day, to take up thoughtlessly the weapons of accusation and calumny, and the cudgel of excommunication, and smite the author in the street.

I call it political obscurantism when we dispatch the masses, crowds upon crowds, into the streets empty handed to face bullets and tanks, while rejoicing that the masses have awakened. The masses have not awakened in all matters, but rather they have been roused with a start. I cannot believe that in 4 months the masses that suffered from a 25-year-old languor and who had completely forgotten about struggle, could suddenly really become awake. What we sent against the savage tanks and machine guns was not just an awakening, it was emotions, feelings of excitement, passions and outcries.

The masses ought to be taught to ponder things deeply. The masses ought to be given a direction. The unmarshalled masses could soon, and often, mutiny against the very people who instigate the masses to riot. The masses should be given a direction in such a way that they do not pour into the streets at every call and shout, and do not become a tool in the hands of this or that power.

I cannot believe that some of those who took part in the march on 26 January last year have not marched in the recent marches. Yes, with the respect which I harbor for this uprising and its multilateral leadership, and precisely because of this selfsame respect, in a cursory assessment I cannot but repeat that things have not progressed at all well and have slid into violence.

We may coax millions of Iranians to march, but many of them, whether intellectuals or workers, employers or tradesmen, once they are alone, ask themselves or their colleagues, in terror: What is going to happen? Whatever next? They are disturbed. They are made dizzy by the spoke of confusion which has darkened their future. Against the future they have placed a black question mark. They ask themselves: Could all this effort, all this blood which has been spilled, all this feverish endeavor, be worth the little which we have gained?

What have they achieved from all this uprising? Mental disturbance, financial upheaval, communications failures; terror, terror and still more terror. Yet despite all this they have selflessly maintained their optimism and their expectation to make use of human liberties and to replace revolutionary romanticism with democratic realism. This state should be maintained in the minds and souls of those people as yet unaffected. Their optimism should be augmented.

TWO REPORTED DEAD AFTER CLASHES IN SEMNAN

LD021736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In the course of a march which took place in Semnan today, and while the demonstrators were passing in front of the town's police department, a bomb went off. Following the explosion, clashes took place between the demonstrators and law enforcement officers, as a result of which three people were injured. The demonstrators were the inhabitants of Sangsar, Semnan, and their demonstrations took the form of a march. The latest report is that two of the injured have died. Following the incident, the police department of Semnan announced that the explosion occurred after the demonstrators threw a handmade bomb into the police department, after which they also attacked the building.

'POLITICAL FIGURES' VISIT KHOMEYNI IN TEHRAN

LD021726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 79 LD

[Text] On the second day of his great eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni's stay in Tehran, thousands of Muslims from Tehran and the provinces assembled at his temporary residence today and managed to meet their spiritual leader. Among those visiting his great eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni were the country's political figures and leaders of various groups.

TEHRAN RADIO RESUMES NORMAL PROGRAMS

LD030832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] As of this morning the Voice of Iran has resumed its normal programs. The news, too, as in the past, is being broadcast on the hour.

EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION POSTS IN GULF REGION ABOLISHED

LD031030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In order to cut costs and to do away with superfluous prestige, supervisory organizations for Iranian schools in the UAE, Muscat, Bahrain, Kuwait and Turkey have been dissolved. The supervision of all educational regions in the southern part of the Persian Gulf basin shall be administered by a single supervisory organization.

FORMER REGIONAL SUPERVISORS TO BE RECALLED

LD031032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] At the minister of education and training's instructions, the term of office of the ministry's employees abroad is to be reduced from 4 to 3 years, and the superfluous officers of the dissolved supervisory education organizations are to be recalled to Tehran immediately.

MINISTERIAL, OTHER SECURITY ORGANS ABOLISHED

LD031626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The security bureaus of the Ministries of Interior and Agriculture and Rural Development have been abolished. The security bureau and mobilization unit [vahed basij] of the Central Bank of Iran and the security bureau of Kerman Governorship have also been dissolved.

KHOMEYNI HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT, FOREIGNERS

LD031738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] His great eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni took part in a press conference at 0830 this morning. The press conference, which was attended by foreign and domestic correspondents, was held at 'Alavi school, where the ayatollah is staying. According to PARS news agency, more than 300 foreign and domestic correspondents, photographers and film-makers took part in the press conference. However, owing to shortage of time, many of them could not put their questions.

At the outset, his great eminence reiterated his earlier views regarding the houses of parliament and the government, and called them illegal. He added that a provisional government should be set up through a revolutionary council, and by holding a constituent assembly, the constitution should be changed and put to a referendum, so that, if approved by the people, it might be implemented.

During the press conference Dr Yazdi and Qotbzadeh, two of the ayatollah's aides, were on each side of him translating correspondents' questions, as well as the ayatollah's replies.

While expressing his views about the monarchy and its rejection, his great eminence the ayatollah commented on the revolutionary council which he has been advocating, saying that the members of the council have already been considered and that their names would be announced at an opportune time. A correspondent asked whether he would accept the proposal by Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar for a meeting and talks. His great eminence the ayatollah reiterated his earlier views, adding that as long as Bakhtiar does not resign and does not declare his government illegal, he will not enter into negotiations with Bakhtiar.

In answer to another question concerning holy war, His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni said: We will try to solve the problems peacefully and find a solution. We wish to act peacefully and advise the government accordingly. However, should Bakhtiar decide to bring in troops from Israel in addition to the support given him by Britain and the United States in order to crush the people, then we shall declare holy war.

Another correspondent asked: Have you held talks with army commanders?

His great eminence the ayatollah replied: Certain talks have taken place and should it become necessary, more will take place. We will call on them to act according to their own interests as well as those of the people, for the army is one with the people, it is the people's brother; the army must not use machineguns against the people.

Dear listeners, we now draw your attention to the recorded version of this press conference which took place this morning: [Begin recording]

[Question] What is Your Excellency's policy with regard to foreign nationals in Iran?

[Khomeyni] All foreign nationals in Iran shall live in freedom; whatever job or business they are engaged in they shall continue, apart from those foreign nationals who are harmful to the Iranian Government, in which case one cannot (?tolerate) their activities.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] My opinion about the mass media is that it should serve the nation, that governments have no right to interfere in it.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] All of them are members of our nation; Kordestan is ours; Baluchestan is ours. The inhabitants of [word indistinct] are our brothers; we appeal to all of them not to [word indistinct] in these sensitive times. We appeal to them to (?remain united) with the nation. God bless them all. [end recording]

INA Report

JN030850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0836 GMT 3 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 3 February--In his first press conference in Iran, Ayotallah Khomeyni has called on the Bakhtiar government to step down as soon as possible. He said this will provide the opprotunity for the formation of a transitional government to conduct a referendum in the country to proclaim the republican regime.

Khomeyni said in his press conference today that the members of the revolutionary council have been appointed, although it is not time yet to announce their names. He said the revolutionary council will form the provisional government which will conduct free general elections in the country.

Khomeyni said that the present government is "illegal" and should not stay in power. He added that the House of Representatives and the Senate are also illegal. Khomeyni explained that the monarchy is illegal to start with because the people have clearly spoken about the monarchy and its future.

Khomeyni said in his press conference that he will not meet with Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar unless he resigns from his official post.

Khomeyni said we will continue the struggle by a peaceful revolution to remove the present government. But if the government uses arms, we will certainly resort to other tactics. He asserted that these tactics include "the declaration of jihad and resorting to armed struggle."

Speaking about the contacts which took place between his followers and the army, Khomeyni said that it is necessary to make further contacts.

Asked about the minorities and their role in Iran, Khomeyni said that all minorities are equal. We respect the minorities and their rights. Within the Islamic republic, they will enjoy the rights of the rest of the citizens.

Speaking about the presence of foreigners in Iran, Khomeyni said that people will be free to live or work in Iran unless their work is harmful to the people's interests, in which case we will not accept them.

AFP Report

NC030630 Paris AFP in English 0606 GMT 3 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3 (AFP)--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the Shi'ite spiritual leader in Iran, told a press conference here today that a national Islamic council would soon be formed here.

The council would appoint a provisional government, and a referendum intended to lead to proclamation of an Islamic republic would then be organized, said the Ayatollah, who returned here this week after almost 15 years of exile.

The aged religious leader said he hoped to solve Iran's current upheavals "in peace and calm." But Premier Shapur Bakhtiar, the long-time opponent of the shah who was appointed to head a civilian government just before the sovereign left the country "on vacation," must resign, the ayatollah said. "A revolution is going on in Iran," he said. "We cannot accept the government of the illegal regime."

Ayatollah Khomeyni said that "if Mr Bakhtiar tries to bring Israeli troops into Iran, we will declare open struggle."

"There is no holy war at the moment," the ayatollah told journalists, "but one could be declared if the crisis were to continue for too long."

The 78-year-old bearded and turbanned spiritual leader, long a symbol of resistance to the departed shah, said he had already drawn up a list of the members of the "national Islamic council." But he did not give their names. The ayatollah said he had not had contacts with the Iranian Armed Forces, but that such contact would be made at the appropriate time. He asked the army not to fire on demonstrating crowds.

Asked whether he and his supporters had weapons, Ayatollah Khomeyni replied: "We could have them at the right moment if necessary."

MILITARY GOVERNORATE PERMITS MORE ASSEMBLAGES

LD031904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] An informed official of the Military Government of Tehran and Suburbs has announced the following which elaborates on Communique No 36 of this governorate:

Those inhabitants of the city who have renewed their requests for holding assemblies are hereby informed that in view of the fact that assemblies during the last 3 days were held with the utmost order, discipline and complete tranquillity; the Military Government of Tehran and Suburbs, while expressing its goodwill and thanks for the cooperation of those who organized these assemblies--with the agreement of his excellency the prime minister--agrees to the continuation of the assemblies applied for provided that order, discipline and complete tranquillity, similar to that of the past 3 days, is observed.

BAKHTIAR SPEAKS ON COOPERATION WITH KHOMEYNI

LD032120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, in a radio interview with Radio France correspondents, has announced: Now that his great eminence Khomeyni is present in the country, many issues can be solved with his help. The prime minister has also said in an interview with Radrio Monte Carlo: The army supports and serves the country and its legal government, and there is no likelihood of a military coup at present. In this interview the prime minister said: We will accept his great eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni's views on religious and social issues. Mr Bakhtiar also announced that he has put forward proposals in these areas so far, but that he has not informed the newsmen about the possible replies that he may have received.

The prime minister emphasized that his government is fully prepared for extensive cooperation with his great eminence and his supporters.

In another interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar firmly emphasized that there is presently no likelihood of a military coup in Iran. He added that the army supports and serves the country and its legal government. It never makes decisions on its own; and in this way, there is no question of a military coup in the present circumstances.

SUPPLIES OF GASOLINE REPORTED INCREASING IN TEHRAN

LD041122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Text] With the increase in the supply of gasoline in the last few days, the length of lines forming in front of service stations is shrinking.

PRESS COMMENTS ON KHOMEYNI, BAKHTIAR POSITIONS, DISTURBANCES

LD041240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Press review]

[Excerpts] AYANDEGAN writes today in bold letters: Should Ayatollah Khomeyni's utterances be translated into action, then clashes will take place. The paper then quotes Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar as saying: I shall execute those causing a civil war. The paper, quoting His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni, writes: If the people agree, there will be a republican regime. Alongside this statement there is a portrait of the Ayatollah Khomeyni during his press conference with domestic and foreign correspondents. Meanwhile, we read: Any change in the government should come through free elections.

At the bottom of the first page of the paper, quoting Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, the paper says: One of His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni's close aides, addressing some correspondents, said: The Ayatollah Khomeyni has filed away the plan for the establishment of an Islamic revolutionary council to create an Islamic republic in the country. Bazargan is quoted as saying: The Ayatollah Khomeyni's decision, which was taken in Paris, was sudden, even for his closest followers.

On the same page, it reads that the Japanese news agency has reported that Leonid Brezhnev had a secret meeting last month with the ayatollah's envoy in Bulgaria.

OMID IRAN carries an article entitled: "Dictatorship Is Condemned in Any Organization." The author, Ali Akbar Safipur, after an introduction, writes: It is time now to untie the knot created as a result of sit-ins and strikes. It is time now for society ... gradually to return to normal [words indistinct] and under the blessing of his eminence of imam's cooperation and favor, welfare and peace, justice and order replace anarchy, rebellion and insecurity. Since the framework of the administration of the country has not yet been defined, unfortunately, successive uprisings are hurriedly and suddenly taking place in various parts of the country, and the country is being subjected to severe political and social blows.

Such anarchy and insecurity, God forbid, might grieve the Imam Khomeyni: for these things are not acceptable to him either, considering the civilized historic Iranian nation that has always been known for its humanitarian and proper behavior. He does not accept that Iranians should murder their compatriots in a barbaric manner, with their claws and teeth and knives and daggers, and then call these deeds a fight against oppression and dictatorship.

Is it not true that when we see troops opening fire on our people we brand the deed as inhuman and cry: Dear army brothers, who do you kill your brothers? If fratricide is evil, then it is evil for everyone and at any time. If dictatorship, bullying and tyranny are evil, then all murderers and oppressors must be condemned. How can a rational man condemn an attack on freedom fighters and then justify the attack by freedom fighters on their opponents?

These harmful acts are below the dignity of Iran's revolution. No free man can ever annihilate another man. Those people who last week attacked the brothels located in the 10th precinct in Tehran, and set fire to a number of houses belonging to some defenseless prostitutes who are forced to choose this profession because of poverty, have committed mortal sins.

All those who heard this frightening news were grieved. I even heard that a number of people hurried to Shahr Now in order to help these defenseless prostitutes. These antipopular deeds committed by ignorant individuals will be published not only in our press; but the news of this barbaric act is being reported throughout the world. And those in advanced countries who will resort to a thousand means to rescue a cat trapped on a live wire cannot possibly believe that in our country houses belonging to the inhabitants of a neighborhood are set on fire simply because these people have committed the crime of being homeless, defenseless and poor.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON ARREST OF FORMER MINISTERS

LD041136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Two former ministers have been arrested. According to reports, Hushang Nahavandi, former minister of housing and urban development, former chief of the express's secretariat and former chancellor of Tehran University, and Abdolmajid Majidi, former minister of state and former head of the plan and budget organization, have been arrested by the Military Governorate of Tehran and its suburbs. According to informed sources, the two former ministers were arrested for their alleged abuse of their position, as well as misappropriation and corruption.

TEHRAN MAYOR TO BE PROSECUTED FOR CORRUPTION

LD041138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Javad Shahrestani has been banned from leaving the country. We have learned that Javad Shahrestani, the mayor of Tehran who is to be prosecuted for his alleged involvement in purchase of trucks and trailers for the Ministry of Roads and Transport, having learned that he is to be prosecuted for his participation in previous cabinets after the approval of a bill on the prosecution of corrupt individuals by the houses of parliament, did not report for work. Instructions were therefore issued to prevent his leaving the country. The Tehran City Council has also been instructed to take immediate action to find a successor for Mr Shahrestani.

FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE ARRESTED

LD041742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Text] It was announced today that Gholam Reza Kianpur, former minister of information and tourism and former minister of justice, has been arrested in accordance with Article V of the martial law. This arrest follows the arrests of Hushang Nahavandi and Abdolmajid Majidi, two former ministers, who were also arrested today.

BAKHTIAR INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT IRANIAN EVENTS

LD042224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Interview of Shahpur Bakhtiar, prime minister of Iran, conducted by Ebrahim Zalzadeh, Tehran city radio correspondent, in Tehran on 4 February--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, as an Iranian and not as a Tehran Radio correspondent--a radio which some people have described as the voice of colonialism and subservient to the establishment--I would like to discuss with you our anxiety, our concern, this ambiguity that has descended upon our city, upon our country. I would like to ask you questions which are on the minds of our people, and would expect you to sincerely answer the questions asked by one of your compatriots.

First of all, our listeners and all those who have come in contact with you through the media know you. I would like to ask you, in the first place, what your political attitude has been in the past, why you were on the sidelines and why you have stood up as prime minister in these critical circumstances?

[Answer] What I have said before and through the media describes 35 to 40 years of my career, which has been based on a struggle against fascism, a struggle against colonialism and a struggle for freedom and democracy. These are not words for my life story; the struggles in my career have been proven through what I have done, and my attitude. Now here we are in these critical conditions, as you have noted, and at my age I do not see why I should change my attitude now. As for how I see the country's future, this, too I have made clear a number of times.

Our country, particularly over the past 25 years, has had corrupt governments and a regime which exercised tighter dictatorship every day to cover up this corruption. The reactions you observe now--some of which are really illogical and in some cases certain people take part in them as either leaders or those being led--have lost their true meaning in relation to the revolution we were after; that is, the democracy and independence all the various groups wanted for Iran. I attach the utmost value to the freedom of the opposition in the context of freedom of expression, freedom of thought and freedom of the press. But freedom has turned into terrorism; it is a freedom that is imposed on the people in various forms. I think 25 years of this kind of freedom has been enough for the country and I do not believe I would allow such a thing in this country. If I do not resist there will be a new dictatorship far worse and horrendous than the previous dictatorship.

[Question] His eminence, the Ayatollah Khomeyni, has returned home. In his recent interviews he has again opposed the regime and your government. The two of you, as two determined men, have entrenched yourselves in your respective positions and neither of you has verbally or otherwise moderated your attitudes. What are the people to do, the people who are in the middle now? What is going to happen to us?

[Answer] I believe that you should be free and choose. I believe that what I say is not necessarily an inviolable divine edict. I say you evaluate what I am saying on the basis of the philosophical, moral, national and social principles you uphold. Then go ahead and choose.

I have the utmost respect for the Ayatollah Khomeyni as a spiritual figure. His political career, as far as I know, started in 1963. As for myself, my political struggle started as a very young man in 1939 in the Spanish civil war for freedom. My political attitude is clear, as I have just explained. I am sorry he has not paid attention to or has not wanted to pay attention to my reasoning, to the letters and messages I have sent him. He is taking the position that what he says must be done. I take a different position; namely, that you evaluate what I am saying with reason, without emotionalism, without clamor, and then choose your path. I do not believe His Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni has a personal animosity toward me. He has a quarrel with the dynasty of Reza Shah and Mohammad Reza Shah, and this has nothing to do with me.

But when they say: You received your decree from the shah, I say Dr Mosaddeq, senior advisers, and many others who were much superior to us did exactly the same thing. All the National Front ministers and all these unimpeachable judges have received mostly similar decrees. So, I do not see why the same decree suddenly became so disgusting. If we want to go all the way back 53 years ago then we should try to seek a king from the Qajar family, or else declare an Islamic republic, as he proposes.

An Islamic republic is a complete unknown to me, and I have yet to read a book or any other material to explain this to me. With the utmost composure, but also with the utmost firmness, I must state that the regime I would like to see established in this country is neither the shah's dictatorship nor anything like it. And I would not like to see the establishment of a republic which is similar to that of some countries, such as Libya or Pakistan.

[Question] In your recent interview with the French radio you said you would be prepared to negotiate with Imam Khomeyni's supporters. What dis you mean by that? Do you mean with those whom the Ayatollah Khomeyni in various statements has identified as having authority in this regard or did you mean any other group?

[Answer] The problem is that the Ayatollah Khomeyni does not have just one spokesman and that the one closest to him, or who considered himself closest to him, was dismissed as a spokesman some time ago. I have tried to prove my complete good will and understanding. Since the shah of Iran left the country I have been in contact with Khomeyni, I have written letters to him. You know more or less all about this yourself. Even now there are people on both sides who are in contact with each other off and on, and the door for negotiations is open. As far as my political thoughts and principles are concerned, there is no way whatsoever that I might alter them. But, I have said I am ready to make the maximum use of his advice, his views, his demands, or anything to do with the country's policies that he or others whom he has nominated might wish to bring up.

[Question] In Khomeyni's press conference yesterday he said that if you did not resign this might lead to circumstances in which he would issue an order for a jihad. What are we to do if that happens?

[Answer] As a Muslim I have never heard that a jihad could apply to one Muslim against another. Of course, my knowledge in this respect is rather poor. It is correct to declare a jihad when the land of Muslims has been usurped, but fratricide and the threat of fratricide cannot be accepted by Iranians, particularly from such a prominent figure, a spiritual personage such as him. We will try to avoid shedding a single drop of blood. But, as I have said, if they attack, if they arm themselves, we will answer bullets with bullets. It is our duty to defend the people. They have the freedom to say whatever they want to say.

When the guerrillas were active it was because of SAVAK tortures. Where is SAVAK now? Where is SAVAK torture now? Where is a political prisoner? So I do not see any reason why anyone should incite the people and threaten the country with poverty, bankruptcy and extinction just because he is adamant about his views.

[Question] Your Excellency, at any rate it must be admitted that his eminence, the Ayatollah Khomeyni, enjoys the support of a large number of groups of people. In light of this what role do you envisage for him or his supporters in the context of the country's policies?

[Answer] I have said his role is very valuable both from the spiritual and political standpoints. More than three-quarters of what he has demanded has been practically met in an extremely short period of time. If those who support him, or support me, want the rest of this program to be implemented we will be most happy to cooperate with them and to keep the door open for negotiations. So, in my view I do not think we should take an indefensible position. At the moment all the country's intelligentsia are disgusted with most of the things happening now. It would not be untrue if I told you that occasionally young intellectuals and informed people come to me and say: One SAVAK that used to impose censorship has now gone, but two additional SAVAKS have now emerged; that is, on top of the old SAVAK which has not completely gone yet.

[Question] You referred to SAVAK. There is now a bill concerning SAVAK before the legislature, but I would like to know what you are going to do about SAVAK organizations and about the punishment of its group of torturers and those who committed acts of cruelty against many of our country's young people?

[Answer] This has been clearly explained in the government's program. The dissolution of SAVAK is one thing and the creation of a security, intelligence and counterespionage bureau at home and abroad is also the duty of any government. Those who have tortured must be punished, but we cannot censure every individual who has had anything to do with SAVAK, such as a typist, because the Iranian people have had to earn their living somewhere. But the bosses, those who issued orders to inflict torture, must be punished. And this has been envisaged in the government's bill.

[Question] Mr rime inister, the Ayatollah Khomeyni in his statements has said he will soon announce a revolutionary council or a government. What is going to happen when there are two governments within the country?

[Answer] I answered this question a week ago. There is one Iran and there is one government. Anything other than that is not tolerable to me, to you or to anybody else.

[Question] Let us assume he announced such a government. Would there then be the civil war everyone is afraid of? Have you thought about this?

[Answer] I believe I should maintain my contact with him and hope that his national fervour and religious recommendations would prevent him from precipitating that. However, the government, at any rate, is obliged to carry out its legal duties, and it will do so. If the matter stays within the framework of announcements and statements, there is no objection to that. But as soon as action starts to be taken I have already said there is no possibility or tolerating two governments in Iran.

[Question] As I said at the beginning about the two of us talking as two Iranians, one of the things that is being said in the city and the country is that you do not have the full authority that you claim to have. The Tehran mayor resigned yesterday and his eminence has reappointed him as mayor. This is one example of the reasons why it is being said that you may have lost control of things. What have you to say on this?

[Answer] As you know, Mayor Shahrestani has several files of misappropriation and irregularities against him. Reports of investigations in this regard are available, and even documents pertaining to misappropriation and irregularities have been discussed at the Senate. Whenever he notices that the atmosphere is somewhat turbulent he has been in the habit of first resigning and throwing himself into the arms of whatever government he thinks might come to power next. As for me, as a man whose life is very clear to everyone, I think he has done something wrong. At any rate, the mayor of Tehran will be changed and his replacement will be elected by the city council. And a man like him will be legally prosecuted as soon as possible. And as for others doing similar things, I believe that it is mostly those with bad reputations who resort to such things in an effort to purify themselves, as it were. But anyone who has worked with honesty and conviction would never resort to such last-ditch efforts. If individuals such as Shahrestini wanted to do what he has done, they should do it at the time corrupt governments are in power, not as Shahrestani has done. He has been a minister, a mayor, a favored man, and now he is like an old man trying to repent for his past misdeeds at the end of his life. He is trying to seek absolution toward the end of his life.

[Question] There is now the question of the National Front. You used to be one of the National Front leaders and the leader of the Iran Party. When you accepted the appointment as prime minister and became prime minister, the National Front expelled you after a party meeting. What have you to say about that, and about the split within the National Front, and your position in the party? It is also being reported that you plan to set up a party all over again. What do you have to say about these points?

[Answer] I have never been one to form new parties. I was a member of the Iran Party which was affiliated with the National Front. With the utmost regret and unhappiness I have seen during the recent month that the National Front has been most obviously sliding into decline and disintegration. I warned about this several times in the past. A handful of people whose adherence to Islam until yesterday was questionable are now trying to pose as spiritual characters. They have even gone so far as donning religious garb. These people have little integrity; they are cynical. They would cooperate with anyone--with the National Front, with the Ayatollah Khomeyni, or with a communist or fascist regime should that come to power one day. I have implemented the National Front doctrine and program here. I have done nothing other than that. What we are seeing here is envy, a discordant attitude, short-sightedness, miserable people and old age. General de Gaulle used to say old age was like a whirlpool which would drag one to the left and to the right in the hands of young ones. This sort of vascilation is particularly true of those who, in their youth, did not have the strength of character to defend their views and ideals.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, one of the problems we are facing now is that we have seen leftwing and rightwing groups manifesting themselves. Even the communists, who once were banned from expressing any views, are now openly making speeches and propagating their views. What are your views about their emergence, their extensive activity, and possible creation of a party and a base from which to further advance themselves?

[Answer] Freedom is something that the constitution has allowed, except in cases where this has been specifically stated otherwise. We shall respect all aspects of freedom. If there is a situation proscribed by the law we shall adhere to the law. I am glad you raised this question because every group is operating freely.

So, I would like you to tell me what we have objected to? These people can cast their votes in a calm atmosphere. They should stop throwing Molotov cocktails; they should stop resorting to methods more or less imported from abroad. In a democratic atmosphere whoever has the majority wins and governs.

[Question] You spoke of freedom. I would like you first to define freedom as Dr Shahpur Bakhtiar, who has been a National Front member and has participated in national struggles for 30 years, and then to define freedom as prime minister. In addition I would like you to explain what concept of freedom you have had in the past and what your concept is now from the other side of your desk?

[Answer] I have always been pursuing the cause of freedom as it was included in the program of the National Front and the Iran Party. I have virtually included all these aspects of freedom in the government's program. Many people tell me that in my position of power I am a little too democratic. I do not accept this. Democracy does not amount to weakness, and bullying is not a sign of strength. Power must emanate from the strength of law. Club-wielding, mob rule and hue and cry do not constitute power or strength. Power must be coupled with the faculty of reasoning and thought. The freedoms I have spoken about in the past I have brought about in practice as well. I hope I will not regret what I have done.

[Question] We hope so too. Mr Prime Minister, as you know, anything that impedes the path of freedom and democracy even in the slightest way is contrary to freedom and democracy. This includes martial law. You promised to abolish martial law gradually before 21 March. What is your policy with regard to the abolition of martial law in Tehran and other provincial cities?

[Answer] As far as Tehran is concerned I cannot say anything at the moment. As for provincial cities, I believe I will be fulfilling my promise. The only point is that, with regard to three provinces, we should first appoint strong, reputable, popular and respected governors general. We are studying the matter. They will be appointed in the near future. Then we will provide them with the opportunity to recommend the abolition of martial law in their provinces.

[Question] You spoke of a referendum. I want to know whether you would let a referendum decide the country's future and regime based on the constitution or based on what we now hear from the people?

[Answer] I did not mention a referendum; you did. Permit me to explain to you that in our constitution all power, all sovereignty emanates from the nation. So the nation's vote is final. The form this vote might take varies from one nation to another. Things we cannot possibly take into account are marches, shouting or Molotov cocktails. These things I cannot regard as the vote of free men. As I have said, the people should be able to cast their votes in a calm atmosphere. Then whoever has the majority wins, and whatever regime Iran wants and whomever Iran wants will be decided by the one who wins this majority. The Iranian people's vote must be regarded as final, but within the framework of the law.

[Question] There are rumors that the government is intimidating the people with the threat of a coup. My question is, in light of the experience of the generation of those over 30 years old, do you yourself, as head of government, not fear a coup?

[Answer] Personally, as long as I am here in my present office I have no fear of this. However, if, God forbid, there were provocations based on selfishness, ignorance or any other factor, and a bloodbath, God forbid, were caused, then I would say a coup is one of the possibilities. But in the present circumstances I would never contemplate such a thing as a coup or fear a coup.

[Question] You said the door for negotiations with the Ayatollah Khomeyni was still open. Are you still prepared to negotiate with the Ayatollah Khomeyni, and what line of negotiations have you opened or are pursuing?

[Answer] As these negotiations have not yet reached results, permit me not to answer this question. If, God willing, they reach another stage than at present, I will answer that.

[Question] My last question, Mr Prime Minister, is in light of the fact that Tehran Radio is communicating with the people candidly without any censorship or suppression. Of course, some of our friends and some quarters accuse us of being subservient to and dependent upon the establishment. How much freedom will you allow this organization? In particular, how much freedom will you allow for the people to criticize you and your office?

[Answer] I have allowed so much freedom to criticize that in every newspaper I pick up if it contains one word of praise it contains 50 words of abuse. Of course, they are not free in what they are saying. [as heard] All I ask of you is one thing: Those who speak or write should be openminded and not committed or obliged to say something either in my favor or against me. I talked to you here as an Iranian. I explained my views and my policies in the past and at present. I hope you will go to openminded people, to thinking people, to those who do not change their political views every other day. If you talk with such people you will have, in my view, far greater value to the Iranian society and will add weight to your own Tehran Radio. This is much better than what happened in the past when one person was praised one day and another person was praised another day. It will be better if you promote liberal-mindedness. You will succeed in time.

CONTACTS BETWEEN BAKHTIAR, KHOMEYNI OPENED

LD042031 Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 4 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, a communication channel was last night established between the Ayatollah Khomeyni and Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, aimed at bringing the two men together in an historic dialog. The originator of the move is said to be the elder statesman of Iran's new revolutionary politics, Mehdi Bazargan.

BANKS TO BE OPEN 3 DAYS PER WEEK

LD042246 Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 4 Feb 1979 LD

[Text] All banks will be open on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays. This was announced by the bank employee's union this morning. The union added that banks will go back to normal after the completion of the people's revolution.

SHOPS REOPEN IN YAZD ; KERMANSHAH BUS STRIKE ENDS

LD032130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] All the shops and business institutions in the bazaar and streets of Yazd resumed work this morning after being closed for 1 week. A report from Kerman says that the bus workers of Kermanshah and its suburbs returned to work today after being on strike for 40 days.

AUTHOR OF ANTI-ARMY ARTICLE ARRESTED

LD051132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Feb 79 LD

[Communique No 37 of the Military Governorate of Tehran and District]

[Text] Mr 'Ali 'Asghar Maj Sayyed Javadi, who wrote a provocative, untruthful and insulting article against the imperial army in the 4 February issue of ETTELA'AT, has been arrested in accordance with article five of the martial law. Instructions have been issued to prepare his preliminary case in accordance with the regulations and send it to competent sources for legal investigation.

Military Governor of Tehran and District, Lt Gen Mehdi Rahimi

UPI OFFICE IN TEHRAN BOMBED BY ISLAMIC GROUP

LD051134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to REUTER, last night three bombs exploded at the UPI office in Tehran. A spokesman for the agency today said that an Islamic guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for the incident. REUTER adds that two bombs went off in the courtyard of the agency and the third bomb exploded in the first floor. UPI staff say that a group under the name of Towhid [unification] has, in a telephone conversation, claimed responsibility for the incident. REUTER adds that the same group has also claimed responsibility for the murder of a senior U.S. officer who was killed last December in Ahaz.

NVOI COMMENTS ON KHOMEYNI'S RETURN, APPEALS TO SOLDIERS

TA021450 [Editorial Report TA] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani at 1745 GMT on 1 February carries a commentary eulogizing the warm welcome accorded to Khomeyni on his arrival in Tehran. In this context, the commentary scores the shah's "despotic regime" and says that "the people are fed up with it." The commentary says: "His Holiness Khomeyni has brought (?blessings) to our Muslim brothers and to the entire Iranian nation." The radio's second commentary discusses "the dark reactionary forces' struggle against the revolutionary forces with the support of the oil cartels" and emphasizes that "the Iranian people's movement is a democratic and national revolution."

At 1945 GMT, the radio carries "an appeal to officers, NCO's and soldiers by a group of Iranian mothers and wives." The appeal says: "Sons of the nation serving in the armed forces, today we would like to make this appeal to you: It is more than a year now since the entire Iranian nation--that is your fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers--was fed up and rose against the shah's evil regime's lawlessness and corruption, terror and oppression. The aim of the nation's struggle is to destroy the shah's despotic regime and to achieve freedom, and this struggle is now at its zenith.

"The shah, the lackey of the United States, has fled the country under the crushing blows of the people's struggle. His being forced to flee is a major achievement for the struggling Iranian nation." In the current struggle against the successors of the shah's regime, the Bakhtiar government, and reactionary forces and their foreign supporters, unite with the nation to deal a crushing blow to oppression.

Iranian soldiers, our sons, we the Iranian mothers have raised you and sent you to serve the people and our homeland. Declare that you refuse to oppress the people in support of the servile government which is the lackey of foreigners and acts as the instrument of U.S. General Huyser. "Young and patriotic officers, NOC's and soldiers, think for a moment and listen to what the people say, what they want. You are the sons of this people and must be on the side of the people." "We Iranian Mothers will not forgive those who turn their weapons against their own brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers." "Refrain from any murder and bloodshed, and turn your fury and hatred on the shah'e evil successors and the enemies of the Iranian nation."

The radio then carries a report which says that Khomeyni has declared that all parties will be free to function in an Islamic republic. The report also says that Khomeyni asked for Bakhtiar's resignation, and has said that the nation is not afraid of a military coup d'etat and is prepared to shed its blood to its last drop. Khomeyni also is reported to have called on the Iranian people to continue the struggle in unity.

Finally, the radio carries a commentary which scores "U.S. imperialism" as "a ruthless enemy of the Iranian mtion," and urges "Iran's progressive and freedom loving forces to continue the struggle to achieve their democratic and national aspirations."

BAKHTIAR INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH SOCIALIST DAILY

NC030638 Paris AFP in English 0615 GMT 3 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Paris, Feb 3 (AFP)--Iranian Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar is prepared to execute anyone calling for civil war in Iran, according to an interview published here today in the socialist daily LE MATIN.

"I will order the arrest of those who call for civil war or the taking up of arms, and I will have them executed if necessary," Mr Bakhtiar told LE MATIN's Tehran correspondent, Bernard Poulet.

Referring to the swarming crowds supporting the returned Shi'ite Muslim leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, the prime minister was quoted as saying: "If they want to demonstrate, let them demonstrate every day. I have ordered the army to hold its fire. But if they parade with Molotov cocktails and weapons, there will be shooting. And it is Mr Khomeyni who will be responsible."

Mr Bakhtiar was quoted as saying that if the ayatollah again demanded his resignation he would give him a rude reply. "If he wants to go on and on, let him do so for the next 6 months, but it's bound to come to an end," the prime minister told the correspondent. In any case, he added, "I am not prepared to let him (the ayatollah) form a real government--and he knows it."

Mr Bakhtiar said a waiting game was sometimes the best tactic, while standing on one's positions. "The door remains open, however", he said. "I am always ready to discuss things, but I will be intractable on matters of principle."

He said the ayatollah would not try to call elections immediately--"not before calm has returned."

"At the moment, there is no real freedom," Premier Bakhtiar said. "Before, there was the SAVAK" (the shah's secret police), the longtime anti-shah opposition leader said. "But today there are the pressure groups."

SANJABI INTERVIEWED ON KHOMEYNI ATTITUDE, PLANS

LD031903 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 3 Feb 79 LD

[Text] It appears that there is some wavering in Ayatollah Khomeyni's entourage, because the army is feared. And you feel this in the interview by our special correspondent (Yeves-Paul Vincent) who met Karim Sanjabi, leader of the National Front, the opposition, this afternoon. It has been said of him that he might be the head of a government approved by Khomeyni. His answers are vague: [Begin recording]

[Question] You who have been in touch with Ayatollah Khomeyni, in particular at Neauphle-le-Chateau, and are still in contact with him or his entourage--in your opinion, has the provisional government already been set up?

[Answer] As far as I know, it is not yet fully set up. That is, even if it is, it is only in the mind of Ayatollah Khomeyni himself.

[Question] Is it conceivable, for example, that you, Karim Sanjabi, will be in this provisional government?

[Answer] I cannot tell you now, because I do not in fact know myself.

[Question] One has the feeling, Dr Sanjabi, that since his return, Ayatollah Khomeyni marking time. One would have thought that he would make use of the popular dynamism in order to announce his projects quickly--the revolutionary council or the provisional government, for example--and he has not yet done so.

[Answer] I am certain that this is the case.

[Question] So you have the feeling that he is marking time, that he is waiting a little, out of caution?

[Answer] Yes, he is waiting, in order to proclaim his program and his government.

[Question] What is, in your opinion, the reason which makes him wait?

[Answer] I believe that it is the attitude of the army. He is waiting to see the army's attitude. This is important to him.

[Question] Does this mean that Ayatollah Khomeyni and yourself, the leader of the National Front, fear the army's reaction?

[Answer] Obviously one has to think about it. One has to think about it and one has to be sure about the army's reaction. [end recording]

AIR FORCE CADETS DEMONSTRATE, ONE CADET KILLED

TA031841 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 3 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Feb 3 (AFP)--An officer cadet died following a fight between troops for and against the Iranian regime at the large Vahdati air base, south of the capital, the daily ETTELA'AT reported today. The newspaper said the officer cadets had organised a march to demonstrate support for religious opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. Insubordination and demonstrations by officer cadets supporting the ayatollah were taking place at other air bases, the paper wrote.

YAZDI INTERVIEWED ON KHOMEYNI PLANS FOR GOVERNMENT

NC041224 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 4 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4 (AFP)--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni will announce Iran's "provisional government", replacing the Bakhtiar government appointed by the shah, "very soon, but not today (Sunday)".

The statement was made by Dr Ebrahim Yazdi, a close aide of the ayatollah, who returned from exile in France last week, in an exclusive interview with AFP in Tehran today. Dr Yazdi also said that a revolutionary Islamic council "exists, but its membership will not be disclosed".

The decision to keep the membership of the council a secret is a shift in Ayatollah Khomeyni's earlier stand, observers said. The religious leader had earlier said he had already appointed a revolutionary council charged with setting up a provisional government, which would make preparations for referendum on the future of the country.

KHOMEYNI AIDE CITES POSSIBLE CUTS IN OIL PRODUCTION

LD051046 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 5 Feb 79 LD

[Text] There is no end to the Iranian oil story. If Iran becomes an Islamic republic--as the Ayatollah Khomeyni wants--the production and therefore the export of Iranian oil will drop by 60 percent. This was announced yesterday by the ayatollah's economic adviser.

BREZHNEV, KHOMEYNI ENVOY REPORTEDLY MEET IN BULGARIA

OW031053 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 3 Feb 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 3 Feb (AFP)--Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev had a secret meeting with a special envoy of Iran's opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni at a Bulgarian resort last month, the JIJI press reported today.

Though the report was unconfirmed, JIJI said an Iranian source here revealed from London that the meeting, the first of its kind, lasted for 3 hours and was believed centered on the Iranian religious leader's future political course. The date and place of the secret talks or name of the envoy were not made known.

JIJI said the meeting came roughly 1 week after the Soviet Union publicly expressed its support for Khomeyni and an overthrow of the Bakhtiar government.

According to the Iranian source, JIJI said Mr Brezhnev invited communist party leaders of certain East European countries to the undisclosed Bulgarian resort 13-17 January for talks on the Middle East situation, particularly Iran.

The Soviet leader was believed to have called the conference partly for a secret meeting with the Khomeyni's unidentified envoy, JIJI said.

The report, if true, conflicts with Khomeyni's earlier statement on his return to Iran that he will "cut the hands" of foreign influence over Iran.